

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATORS ADLEY, AMEDEE, BAJOIE, BARHAM, BOASSO, BROOME, CHEEK, DARDENNE, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ELLINGTON, FIELDS, FONTENOT, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, HEITMEIER, HINES, HOLLIS, JACKSON, JONES, KOSTELKA, LENTINI, MALONE, MARIONNEAUX, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, ROMERO, SCHEDLER, SHEPHERD, SMITH, THEUNISSEN AND ULLO AND REPRESENTATIVE KATZ

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to extend Louisiana's seaward boundary in the Gulf of Mexico to twelve geographical miles.

WHEREAS, Louisiana's seaward boundary in the Gulf of Mexico has been judicially determined to be three geographical miles and the United States has jurisdiction past the three geographical miles; and

WHEREAS, Congress has the power to amend the Submerged Lands Act of 1953 to allow for the recognition that Louisiana's seaward boundary extends twelve geographical miles into the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana acts as a significant energy corridor vital to the entire United States and provides intersections of oil and natural gas intrastate and interstate pipeline networks which serve as reference for futures markets, such as the Henry Hub for natural gas, the St. James Louisiana Light Sweet Crude Oil, and the Mars Sour Crude Oil contracts; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana provides storage for the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve and is the home of the nation's major import terminal for foreign oil, known as the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana and its coastal wetlands provide access to nearly thirty-four percent of the U.S. natural gas supply and nearly twenty-nine percent of the U.S. oil supply; and

WHEREAS, the United States' economic growth depends on access to stable supplies of oil and natural gas; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks first in crude oil production, including the outer continental shelf production, and ranks second in natural gas production, including the outer continental shelf production; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the state of Louisiana received only one-half of one percent of the federal oil and gas revenues off its coast; and

WHEREAS, hurricanes Katrina and Rita have shown that the loss of vital oil and gas infrastructure in Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico has an immediate and direct impact upon the economy and well-being of the entire country and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the hurricanes have shut-in approximately fifty-three percent of the daily oil production in the Gulf of Mexico, and shut-in approximately forty-seven percent of the daily gas production in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, for the time period of August 26, 2005, through November 3, 2005, the cumulative shut-in of oil production is approximately fourteen percent of the yearly oil production in the Gulf of Mexico, and the cumulative shut-in of gas production is approximately eleven percent of the yearly gas production in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, due to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Louisiana has suffered loss of life and tremendous devastation to its economy, its citizens, infrastructure, and coastal landscape; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Revenue Estimating Conference estimates the budget shortfall to be approximately nine hundred seventy million dollars, and the loss of fees and self-generated revenue could increase the shortfall to one billion five hundred million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the governor of Louisiana has reduced state agency spending by five hundred million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the state has provided ten million dollars from our Rapid Response Fund for short-term, interest-free loans to struggling businesses, and granted the full Interim Emergency Fund in the amount of sixteen million dollars to local governments in order for the governments' vital services to operate; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has paid out approximately three hundred million dollars in unemployment benefits to hurricane affected employees; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has established a Rainy Day Fund that is worth approximately four hundred sixty million dollars, and the state is in the process of using at least one-third of this fund to balance the state budget; and

WHEREAS, in this special session the Louisiana legislature along with the governor are considering other options for balancing the budget, increasing revenues, and funding the massive clean-up, rebuilding, and restoration of southern Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, hurricanes Katrina and Rita turned approximately one hundred square miles of southeast Louisiana coastal wetlands into open water, and destroyed more wetlands east of the Mississippi River in one month than experts estimated to be lost in over forty-five years; and

WHEREAS, monies are desperately needed to fund the state's clean-up, rebuilding, and restoration of southern Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana and its citizens are in a financial crisis; and

WHEREAS, in order to rebuild the state of Louisiana and protect its citizens, the state needs a significant, consistent and ongoing stream of revenue; and

WHEREAS, the extension of Louisiana's seaward boundary into the Gulf of Mexico for twelve geographical miles will provide such stream of revenue.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to extend Louisiana's seaward boundary in the Gulf of Mexico to twelve geographical miles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES