

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY REPRESENTATIVE COUSSAN AND SENATOR HENSGENS

ENERGY PRODUCTION: Memorializes Congress and the Louisiana Delegation to defeat the "Oceans-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020"

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To memorialize the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to
3 take such actions as are necessary to defeat passage of the "Oceans-Based Climate
4 Solutions Act of 2020" and to protect future opportunities for oil and gas exploration
5 on the Outer Continental Shelf.

6 WHEREAS, Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.), Chairman of the United States House
7 Committee on Natural Resources has unveiled legislation entitled the "Oceans-Based
8 Climate Solutions Act of 2020" with the intent to include ocean impacts of climate change
9 in the discussions of methods to address climate change mitigation; and

10 WHEREAS, in an effort to restore coastal ecosystems, strengthen marine mammal
11 conservation, reduce carbon emissions from shipping vessels, improve international ocean
12 governance, and pursue other oceans-related solutions to the climate change crisis, the
13 legislation seeks to end the federal offshore oil-leasing program; and

14 WHEREAS, although these pursuits sound laudable, it is important to remember that
15 the Louisiana oil and gas industry supports nearly two hundred and fifty thousand jobs inside
16 the state of Louisiana and more in adjoining states, it accounts for fourteen percent of the
17 state's tax revenue, and supplies \$73 billion of the state's gross domestic product; and

18 WHEREAS, an analysis has found that such a proposal, if enacted, would cause the
19 loss of nearly one million jobs nationwide in the first twelve to twenty-four months, forty-
20 eight thousand of which are located here in Louisiana; and

1 WHEREAS, this proposal would significantly reduce our domestic energy
2 production, making our nation more dependent on less reliable, less safe foreign sources for
3 energy produced under weaker environmental standards and a higher carbon footprint; and

4 WHEREAS, with energy demand expected to continue to rise until at least 2040,
5 Louisiana currently produces nearly twenty percent of our nation's energy, refines
6 approximately forty-five percent of the total United States petroleum, and processes fifty-
7 one percent of the nation's natural gas; and

8 WHEREAS, while meeting this demand year after year, Louisiana energy producers
9 are at the forefront of carbon emissions reduction technology development like carbon
10 capture and storage that can capture ninety percent of carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and

11 WHEREAS, in addition, the offshore oil and gas industry in the United States
12 operates under some of the most stringent environmental rules in the world and its
13 infrastructure also supports some of the most abundant fish habitat providing fishing
14 opportunities that have made Louisiana the "Sportsman's Paradise"; and

15 WHEREAS, protecting leasing and production in the Outer Continental Shelf will
16 help combat climate change by helping our state combat coastal land loss and sustain oil and
17 gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico critical to energy innovations needed to reduce carbon
18 emissions; and

19 WHEREAS, Louisiana and its local economies, especially communities reliant on
20 energy development and production, have felt an outsized impact from the COVID-19
21 pandemic and are expected to face a slower recovery than many other states because of our
22 large service sector employment; and

23 WHEREAS, Louisiana already faces major budget shortfalls that will impact schools,
24 emergency services, and other essential services; and

25 WHEREAS, under the provisions of the Gulf of Mexico Security Act, in 2019 alone
26 energy production on the Outer Continental Shelf generated over \$155 million to the state
27 of Louisiana used for coastal restoration and hurricane preparedness; and

28 WHEREAS, ensuring access to available leasing acreage on the Outer Continental
29 Shelf will protect offshore energy production as an essential part of our state's budget when
30 our state and local governments need it the most.

1 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
2 memorialize the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to take
3 such actions as are necessary to defeat passage of the "Oceans-Based Climate Solutions Act
4 of 2020" and to protect future opportunities for oil and gas exploration on the Outer
5 Continental Shelf.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
7 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
8 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 38 Original

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Coussan

Memorializes the La. Congressional Delegation and the U. S. Congress to take such actions as are necessary to defeat passage of the "Oceans-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2020" and to protect future opportunities for oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf.