

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY REPRESENTATIVES ORGERON, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BACALA, BEAULLIEU, BRASS, BROWN, BUTLER, CARPENTER, CARRIER, CORMIER, CREWS, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, EDMONDS, EMERSON, FONTENOT, GAROFALO, KERNER, LACOMBE, MIGUEZ, MINCEY, CHARLES OWEN, PIERRE, RISER, ROMERO, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHLEGEL, SEABAUGH, ST. BLANC, THOMAS, THOMPSON, VILLIO, WHEAT, AND WRIGHT

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the administration of President Biden to immediately end the pause on  
3 offshore oil and natural gas leasing and allow for the continued exploration,  
4 development, and production of oil and natural gas resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

5 WHEREAS, the oil and natural gas industry has historically provided thousands of  
6 high-paying jobs for Louisianans working in production or transportation of oil and natural  
7 gas, generating millions of dollars in annual revenue for state and local programs, and  
8 decreasing America's dependence on imported oil; and

9 WHEREAS, recent action by the federal government has paused offshore oil and  
10 natural gas leasing and stopped pipeline development; and

11 WHEREAS, an extended leasing ban would greatly diminish investment and activity  
12 in Gulf of Mexico production and result in substantial, irreplaceable job losses and loss of  
13 revenue to the state and its communities; and

14 WHEREAS, Gulf of Mexico production provides the only annual recurring revenue  
15 from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, more commonly referred to as GOMESA, a  
16 standing revenue sharing arrangement; and

17 WHEREAS, under the GOMESA revenue sharing provisions, Gulf oil and gas  
18 producing states, including Louisiana, split 37.5 percent of qualified outer continental shelf  
19 revenues and 12.5 percent of revenues are directed to the Land and Water Conservation Fund  
20 stateside program, through which states can receive up to \$125 million a year in grants; and

21 WHEREAS, the GOMESA revenues fund vital coastal protection and restoration  
22 programs as set forth by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's Master Plan for  
23 a Sustainable Coast; and

1           WHEREAS, an Obama Administration report from the Bureau of Ocean Energy  
2 Management analyzing the effects of offshore leasing restrictions found that United  
3 States greenhouse gas emissions would be little affected and would increase globally in the  
4 absence of new offshore leasing due to increased foreign imports; and

5           WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico has the lowest carbon intensity in the world in terms  
6 of emissions, other than Saudi Arabia, and would be lower than Saudi imports, with  
7 1,274,450 barrels of oil or 62 percent of all 2021 Gulf of Mexico deepwater production  
8 being produced by a public corporation with an existing net zero pledge; and

9           WHEREAS, the oil and natural gas industry has invested over \$108 billion in  
10 greenhouse gas mitigating technologies contributing to a sharp decline in emission of CO2  
11 in the United States; and

12           WHEREAS, from 2000 to 2018, emissions declined 67 percent in the United States  
13 relative to oil and gas production; and

14           WHEREAS, in the same period the of time, carbon dioxide emissions in the rest of  
15 the world increased by 29 percent; and

16           WHEREAS, the 2020 Louisiana Emissions Analysis, published by the Consumer  
17 Energy Alliance, a leading voice for sensible energy policies for families and businesses,  
18 found that emissions declined by 71 percent across the state since 1990; and

19           WHEREAS, during that same period of emissions reduction, Louisiana's gross  
20 domestic product surged 177 percent; and

21           WHEREAS, pipeline transportation provides a consumer-friendly and intrinsically  
22 safer mode of transportation compared to others that have higher emissions; and

23           WHEREAS, restricting pipeline development results in higher costs to consumers  
24 and higher transportation emissions; and

25           WHEREAS, because projections show energy demand will continue to rise,  
26 restricting development on federal lands and waters is nothing more than an "import more  
27 oil" policy forcing the United States to rely on imports from sometimes hostile foreign  
28 countries with lower environmental standards; and

29           WHEREAS, broad and predictable access to offshore oil and natural gas resources  
30 will help support and grow more jobs and activity in Louisiana and the Gulf region, reduce  
31 America's reliance on overseas imports, and increase revenues to the state and its localities.

1           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
2           urge and request the administration of President Biden to immediately end its pause on  
3           offshore oil and natural gas leasing and allow for the continued exploration, development,  
4           and production of oil and natural gas resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

5           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana also expresses its  
6           support for the ongoing development of America's superior pipeline transportation network  
7           to the benefit of American consumers and American workers and allow the inherent  
8           economic benefits thereof to be fully realized.

9           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
10          president of the United States, each member of the president's cabinet, and to the members  
11          of the capitol press corps.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE