

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

BY REPRESENTATIVES COUSSAN, ADAMS, AMEDEE, BAGLEY, DEVILLIER, EDMONSTON, FIRMENT, GAROFALO, HARRIS, HORTON, MIKE JOHNSON, MCCORMICK, MCFARLAND, ORGERON, CHARLES OWEN, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, SELDERS, ST. BLANC, AND STEFANSKI AND SENATOR HENSGENS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Louisiana Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to defeat passage of the "Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act

of 2020" and to protect future opportunities for oil and gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE