

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 43

BY REPRESENTATIVES ORGERON, BOURRIAQUE, CARRIER, CORMIER, FISHER,  
GEYMANN, KERNER, MINCEY, RISER, ROMERO, SCHAMERHORN, AND  
WHEAT

ENERGY PRODUCTION: Urges and requests federal action on domestic oil and gas  
production

1  A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the president of the United States (U.S.), the governor of Louisiana and  
3 the Louisiana congressional delegation to do everything in their power to halt federal  
4 actions resulting in the delay or cancellation of offshore oil and natural gas lease  
5 sales and strongly urge the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Biden  
6 Administration to expedite actions necessary to comply with the order by the U.S.  
7 District Court for the District of Columbia to resolve Lease Sale 257 and finalize a  
8 new five-year plan for oil and gas leasing on the outer continental shelf.

9 WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico produces approximately seventeen percent of the  
10 U.S. crude oil and five percent of U.S. natural gas while contributing five to eight billion  
11 dollars to the federal treasury each year and sends hundreds of millions of dollars to coastal  
12 states for coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects; and

13 WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry directly supports two hundred forty-nine  
14 thousand eight hundred jobs in Louisiana and the oil and gas industry activities represent  
15 twenty-six percent of Louisiana's Gross Domestic Product, accounting for nearly four and  
16 one half billion dollars in state and local tax revenue in 2019 alone, with fourteen and one  
17 half percent of total state taxes, licenses, and fees collected; and

18 WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) which  
19 regulates offshore lease sales, the Gulf of Mexico continues to be the nation's primary

1 offshore source of oil and gas, generating about ninety-seven percent of all U.S. outer  
2 continental shelf (OCS) oil and gas production; and

3 WHEREAS, since 2017, Gulf of Mexico lease sales have generated more than one  
4 billion dollars from offshore leasing; and

5 WHEREAS, since 1953, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior has been required by law  
6 to prepare a five-year plan to set a schedule for oil and gas leases in U.S. offshore waters;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, it is a lengthy, multi-year regulatory process with multiple stages for  
9 public comment, input, and consultation; and

10 WHEREAS, the Obama Administration issued a five-year-plan for oil and gas  
11 leasing that expires on July 1, 2022; and

12 WHEREAS, there are two remaining lease sales for the Gulf of Mexico authorized  
13 under the current five-year plan, including Lease Sale 259 and Lease Sale 261; and

14 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) missed the deadline to issue  
15 a notice of sale for Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 259 in order to meet the expiration of the  
16 current five-year plan; and

17 WHEREAS, President Biden signed Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate  
18 Crisis at Home and Abroad, on January 27, 2021, declaring a pause on leasing on federal  
19 lands and waters, including the OCS of the Gulf of Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, the U.S. District Court ordered a preliminary injunction on the leasing  
21 pause and ordered federal oil and gas lease sales to proceed on June 15, 2021; and

22 WHEREAS, the DOI held Lease Sale 257 on November 17, 2021; however, on  
23 January 27, 2022, a ruling by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia invalidated  
24 Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 257 requiring the DOI to reassess the environmental impacts of  
25 Lease Sale 257; and

26 WHEREAS, the DOI is not appealing the court ruling and therefore there is no  
27 indication that leases will be awarded to the offshore companies; and

28 WHEREAS, there is no indication that the federal government will hold another Gulf  
29 of Mexico offshore lease sale for the duration of President Biden's term; and

1           WHEREAS, there is no indication that the DOI is working on the next OCS five year  
2 plan; and

3           WHEREAS, since December 2019 crude output fell slightly, with a drop of nearly  
4 thirteen and one half percent in offshore Gulf of Mexico production; however, demand for  
5 oil has climbed nine and eight-tenths percent in the same period.

6           WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA), which allows  
7 Gulf states to share in offshore revenue generated from offshore oil activity including bonus  
8 bid revenue, is the only reliable source of funding for Louisiana's coastal programs; and

9           WHEREAS, over the past five years Louisiana has received between one hundred  
10 sixty million and four hundred seven million dollars from bonus bids alone; and

11           WHEREAS, it is estimated that the state of Louisiana lost approximately twenty to  
12 forty million dollars in 2021 due to the cancelled lease sales and lost bonus bid revenue; and

13           WHEREAS, Louisiana depends on GOMESA revenues to fund a fifty billion dollar  
14 coastal restoration plan; and

15           WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior is required by law to prepare a  
16 five-year plan to set a schedule for oil and gas leases in federal offshore waters; and

17           WHEREAS, delaying or canceling Gulf of Mexico leasing negatively impacts federal  
18 and state revenue, as well as Louisiana businesses and jobs; and

19           WHEREAS, drilling contractors will see impacts dropping as many as one quarter  
20 of the remaining Gulf of Mexico rigs over the next several years; and

21           WHEREAS, every drillship maintains an entire network of staff, supply boats, and  
22 other vendors that support roughly one thousand jobs per rig; and

23           WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico is the safest and cleanest oil produced anywhere in  
24 the world; and

25           WHEREAS, halting domestic energy development in one of the lowest carbon  
26 intensive energy producing regions in the world will shift production and capital investment  
27 overseas and undermine decades of environmental progress; and

28           WHEREAS, a 2016 Obama Administration study conducted by BOEM concluded  
29 that America's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will be only slightly affected by leasing

1 decisions on BOEM's offshore leasing program and could result in an increase of GHG  
2 emissions in the absence of new OCS leasing due to an increase in importing foreign oil; and

3 WHEREAS, the current administration is pursuing a policy that places the U.S. at  
4 the mercy of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and Russia to meet  
5 our domestic needs, harming our national and economic security.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
7 urge and request the president of the United States, the governor of Louisiana and the  
8 Louisiana congressional delegation to do everything in their power to halt federal actions  
9 resulting in the delay or cancellation of offshore oil and natural gas lease sales and strongly  
10 urge the U.S. Department of Interior and the Biden Administration to expedite actions  
11 necessary to comply with the order of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia  
12 to resolve Lease Sale 257 and finalize a new five-year plan for oil and gas leasing on the  
13 outer continental shelf.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all efforts should focus on mandated lease sales  
15 in the Gulf of Mexico.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the clerk of the House is hereby directed to  
17 forward a copy of this Resolution to the president of the United States, the secretary of the  
18 interior, the secretary of energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the White  
19 House national climate advisor, the speaker and clerk of the United States House of  
20 Representatives, the president pro tempore and secretary of the United States Senate, and the  
21 members of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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#### 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)]

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HCR 43 Engrossed

2022 Regular Session

Orgeron

Urges and requests the president of the United States, the governor of Louisiana and the La. congressional delegation to do everything in their power to halt federal actions resulting in the delay or cancellation of offshore oil and natural gas lease sales and strongly urge the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Biden Administration to expedite actions necessary to comply with the order of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to resolve Lease Sale 257 and finalize a new five-year plan for oil and gas leasing on the outer continental shelf. Further specifies that all efforts should focus on mandated lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico.