

BY REPRESENTATIVE DOVE AND SENATOR CHABERT

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

19 WHEREAS, safety is of paramount importance in the oil and gas industry, an
20 industry that has an excellent long term record for safety, therefore, the impetus behind the
21 Secretary's directive is valid and laudable; and

1 WHEREAS, the Secretary's directive directs oil and gas lessees and operators to
2 cease drilling new deepwater wells, including wellbore and bypass activities, prohibits the
3 spudding of any new deepwater wells, and provides that the Minerals Management Service
4 will not consider drilling permits for deepwater wells or related activities; and

5 WHEREAS, the directive also requires that operators who are currently drilling any
6 oil or gas well covered by the Moratorium Notice to Lessees ". . . proceed at the next safe
7 opportunity to secure the well and take all necessary steps to cease operations and
8 temporarily abandon or close the well until they receive further guidance from the Regional
9 Supervisor of Field Operations"; and

10 WHEREAS, the directive will essentially stop for at least six months all oil and gas
11 exploration activity in the Gulf of Mexico in five hundred feet of water or more, and will
12 probably cease such activity for longer than six months since it will take more time for the
13 Mineral Management Service to again begin to review applications for drilling permits, and
14 the directive will cease all activity on at least thirty-three exploration wells in the deepwater
15 of the Gulf of Mexico, wells that currently employ thousands of Louisiana citizens and
16 citizens from along the Gulf Coast; and

17 WHEREAS, deepwater exploration and production of oil and gas in the Gulf
18 of Mexico is a multi-billion dollar per year industry supporting associated businesses in
19 Louisiana and all over the United States, an industry that is growing into the deepwater of
20 the Gulf of Mexico to pursue the domestic oil and gas reserves that our country so
21 desperately wants and needs to develop so that we are not dependent on foreign oil and gas
22 production; and

23 WHEREAS, although the bulk of the oil and gas industry was not at fault nor
24 involved with the Deepwater Horizon tragedy, the moratorium will have a direct and
25 devastating effect on those oil and gas companies, and exploration companies, and their
26 contractors who are being penalized after having drilled thousand of wells and operated
27 safely for years in the Gulf of Mexico; and

28 WHEREAS, it is the fear of the Louisiana Legislature that the Secretary's directive
29 will have a devastating effect on the economy of the state of Louisiana and of the states that
30 allow and support deepwater oil or gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and will have a

1 negative effect on businesses all over the United States that do business with the oil and gas
2 industry or are frequented by the employees of the oil and gas industry in the Gulf of
3 Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, a six-month closure of deepwater oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of
5 Mexico likely will cause an economic disaster on top of the economic and environmental
6 disaster already visited on the state of Louisiana and other oil and gas producing states along
7 the Gulf of Mexico by the explosion of BP's Deepwater Horizon drilling platform.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9 urge and request Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, to reconsider his directive that
10 established a six-month moratorium on oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico and
11 alter the directive in a manner to lessen the economic impact on the state of Louisiana and
12 the rest of the states along the Gulf of Mexico who are most affected by the developing and
13 increasing disaster not only to our fragile wetlands and shorelines but also to our economic
14 health and stability by reducing the time of the moratorium to no more than thirty days while
15 not sacrificing safety and environmental concerns through implementation of additional
16 safety measures as outlined below.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is within the Secretary's power to alter the
18 moratorium on drilling in the deepwater of the Gulf of Mexico so that the economic hardship
19 created for the state of Louisiana and the other oil and gas producing states along the Gulf
20 of Mexico is lessened, with the Secretary able to consider alternatives as those set forth in
21 the Department of Interior report entitled "Increased Safety Measures for Energy
22 Development on the Outer Continental Shelf of May 27, 2010", several of which can be
23 implemented immediately including Minerals Management Service verification of the safety
24 of the following:

- 25 (a) certify blowout prevention stacks
- 26 (b) verify blowout prevention equipment compatibility
- 27 (c) develop new inspection procedures and reporting requirements
- 28 (d) establish new fluid displacement procedures
- 29 (e) verify compliance with existing regulations and National Safety Alert
- 30 requirements; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary could also consider allowing any
2 already permitted drilling activity to continue to completion of the well; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the other measures set forth in the Department
4 of Interior "Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental
5 Shelf of May 27, 2010" could be implemented such as those requiring emergency rule
6 making, as well as recommendations developed by the National Commission on the BP
7 Deepwater Horizon Spill and Offshore Drilling investigation which could be implemented
8 concurrent with the continued operations of offshore deepwater drilling without damaging
9 the economies of the very states and communities that are bearing the brunt of the economic
10 and environmental damage from the disaster; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minerals Management Service inspectors
12 could be required to maintain a twenty-four hour per day, seven day a week presence on all
13 ongoing deep water drilling locations, with a seven to ten day rotation schedule and the
14 Secretary could require strict compliance with American Petroleum Institute standards on
15 all equipment used in well construction and operation.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
17 Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior, Ken Salazar, and to each member of the
18 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)]

Dove

HCR No. 214

Urges and requests Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, to reconsider the directive that he issued which instituted six-month moratorium on oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico and to possibly alter that directive to minimize the negative economic impact of such directive on the already damaged economies of the state of Louisiana and the other oil and gas producing states along the Gulf of Mexico.