

BY REPRESENTATIVE DOVE AND SENATOR CHABERT AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAMSON, ANDERS, ARNOLD, AUSTIN BADON, BOBBY BADON, BALDONE, BARRAS, BILLIOT, BROSSETT, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANDLER, CHANEY, CONNICK, CORTEZ, CROMER, DANAHAY, DOERGE, DOWNS, EDWARDS, ELLINGTON, FANNIN, FOIL, GEYMAN, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARDY, HARRISON, HENDERSON, HENRY, HOFFMANN, HOWARD, HUTTER, JOHNSON, SAM JONES, KATZ, KLECKLEY, LABRUZZO, LAMBERT, LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LIGI, LITTLE, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MILLS, MONICA, MONTUCET, MORENO, MORRIS, NOWLIN, PEARSON, PERRY, PONTI, POPE, PUGH, RICHARD, RICHARDSON, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, SCHRODER, SIMON, SMILEY, GARY SMITH, JANE SMITH, TALBOT, TEMPLET, THIBAUT, TUCKER, WADDELL, WHITE, WILLMOTT, AND WOOTON AND SENATORS AMEDEE, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, HEBERT, MORRISH, AND SMITH

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

7 WHEREAS, some fifty miles off the Louisiana coast, the Deepwater Horizon drilling  
8 rig experienced a massive and deadly explosion and fire on April 20, 2010, before sinking  
9 and leaking oil into the Gulf of Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, such explosion and fire resulted in the death of Gordon Jones, Roy  
11 Wyatt Kemp, Karl Kleppinger, Jr., Keith Blair Manuel, Shane Roshto, Adam Weise, Aaron  
12 Dale Burkeen, Jason Anderson, Donald Clark, Stephen Ray Curtis, and Dewey Revette; and

13           WHEREAS, in addition to the deaths, other rig employees were injured and continue  
14           to suffer from their injuries; and

15           WHEREAS, in addition to the tragic loss of life and injuries, the resulting oil spill  
16           and leak has potentially created the greatest environmental disaster in United States history;  
17           and

1           WHEREAS, at least one hundred and thirty miles of shoreline is being affected by  
2           oil coming ashore; and

3           WHEREAS, the oil spill and leak continues to directly and indirectly affect the lives  
4           and the economic and environmental well-being of the citizens and communities of  
5           Louisiana and other Gulf Coast states; and

6           WHEREAS, as a result of the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil platform on  
7           April 20, 2010, and the ensuing disastrous impacts, the Secretary of the United States  
8           Department of Interior, Ken Salazar, has issued a moratorium on deepwater exploration in  
9           the Gulf of Mexico; and

10          WHEREAS, Secretary Salazar states that "The six month moratorium on deepwater  
11          drilling will provide time to implement new safety requirements and to allow the Presidential  
12          Commission to complete its work." and he states that the moratorium does not apply to  
13          deepwater production, although deepwater production will continue subject to close  
14          oversight and safety requirements; and

15          WHEREAS, although activities necessary to support deepwater production may  
16          continue, the Secretary's directive requires such activities must obtain approval from the  
17          Department of Interior in order to continue; and

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

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

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

30          WHEREAS, the directive will essentially stop for at least six months all oil and gas  
31          exploration activity in the Gulf of Mexico in five hundred feet of water or more, and the

1 directive will cease all activity on at least thirty-three exploration wells in the deepwater of  
2 the Gulf of Mexico, wells that currently employ thousands of Louisiana citizens and citizens  
3 from along the Gulf Coast; and

4 WHEREAS, deepwater exploration and production of oil and gas in the Gulf of  
5 Mexico is a multi-billion dollar per year industry supporting associated businesses in  
6 Louisiana and all over the United States, an industry that is growing into the deepwater of  
7 the Gulf of Mexico to pursue the domestic oil and gas reserves needed by our country to  
8 avoid a dangerous dependence on foreign oil and gas production; and

9 WHEREAS, although the bulk of the oil and gas industry was not at fault nor  
10 involved with the Deepwater Horizon tragedy, the moratorium will have a direct and  
11 devastating effect on those oil and gas companies, exploration companies, and their  
12 contractors, who have been involved in the drilling and safe operation of thousands of wells;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the moratorium could also result in further direct and indirect impacts  
15 upon individuals, communities, local retailers, and small businesses already affected by the  
16 disaster; and

17 WHEREAS, it is the deep concern of the Louisiana Legislature that the Secretary's  
18 directive will have a devastating effect on the economy and citizens of the state of Louisiana  
19 and of the states that allow and support deepwater oil or gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico  
20 and will have a negative effect on businesses all over the United States that do business with  
21 the oil and gas industry or are frequented by the employees of the oil and gas industry in the  
22 Gulf of Mexico; and

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

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
28 urge and request Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, to reconsider his directive that  
29 established a six-month moratorium on oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico and  
30 alter the directive in a manner to lessen the economic impact on the state of Louisiana and  
31 the rest of the states along the Gulf of Mexico who are most affected by the developing and

1 increasing disaster not only to our fragile wetlands and shorelines but also to our economic  
2 health and stability by reducing the time of the moratorium while not sacrificing safety and  
3 environmental concerns through implementation of additional safety measures as outlined  
4 below.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is within the Secretary's power to alter the  
6 moratorium on drilling in the deepwater of the Gulf of Mexico so that the economic hardship  
7 created for the state of Louisiana and the other oil and gas producing states along the Gulf  
8 of Mexico is lessened.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary shall consider in altering the  
10 moratorium technological and other alternatives, including verification of the safety of the  
11 following:

- 12 (a) certify blowout prevention stacks
- 13 (b) verify blowout prevention equipment compatibility
- 14 (c) develop new inspection procedures and reporting requirements for all  
15 equipment, including OCTG inspection guidelines, such as (i) identifying information; (ii)  
16 wall thickness reading on 100% of pipe; (iii) data points should be capable of being stored  
17 for 3-D image and future purposes and verifying strength of pipe; and (iv) burst and collapse  
18 calculations based on pressure
- 19 (d) establish new fluid displacement procedures
- 20 (e) verify compliance with existing regulations and National Safety Alert  
21 requirements.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary could also consider allowing any  
23 already permitted drilling activity to continue to completion of the well, subject to  
24 heightened safety, inspection, and reporting requirements.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the other measures set forth in the Department  
26 of Interior "Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental  
27 Shelf of May 27, 2010" could be implemented such as those requiring emergency rule  
28 making, as well as recommendations developed by the National Commission on the BP  
29 Deepwater Horizon Spill and Offshore Drilling investigation which could be implemented  
30 concurrent with the continued operations of offshore deepwater drilling.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such considerations should include safety,  
2           environmental, and economic effects at both the state and local levels.

3           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Interior should utilize all  
4           available personnel and resources to immediately perform all necessary inspections and  
5           reviews in an expedited process.

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minerals Management Service inspectors  
7           should be required to maintain a twenty-four hour per day, seven day a week presence on  
8           all ongoing deepwater drilling locations, with a seven to ten day rotation schedule, and the  
9           Secretary could require strict compliance with American Petroleum Institute standards on  
10          all equipment used in well construction and operation, as well as all applicable laws and  
11          regulations pertaining to such equipment.

12          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the  
13          Secretary of the United States Department of Interior, Ken Salazar, and to each member of  
14          the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE