

1 SJR136
2 192232-1
3 By Senators Allen, Reed, Waggoner, Albritton, Beasley,
4 Blackwell, Brewbaker, Bussman, Chambliss, Coleman-Madison,
5 Dial, Dunn, Figures, Glover, Hightower, Holley, Holtzclaw,
6 Livingston, Marsh, McClendon, Melson, Orr, Pittman, Sanders,
7 Sanford, Scofield, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smith, Smitherman,
8 Stutts, Ward, Whatley and Williams
9 RFD:
10 First Read: 21-MAR-18

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8 URGING THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE FOR CONTINUED
9 AND EXPANDED ACCESS TO GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE OIL AND NATURAL
10 GAS.

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12 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the critical
13 importance of energy to the people and businesses who reside
14 in the state, which is in the top 15 for both energy use and
15 energy expenses per capita; and

16 WHEREAS, on July 3, 2017, the United States
17 Department of the Interior initiated the development of a new
18 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program
19 (OCS) for 2019-2024; and

20 WHEREAS, on January 8, 2018, the United States
21 Department of the Interior issued a 2019-2024 draft proposed
22 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program that
23 includes continued and expanded opportunities to develop Gulf
24 of Mexico energy, which will benefit Alabama's economy and
25 citizens; and

26 WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico region contributes
27 nearly 20 percent of the nation's crude oil production; and

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Interior estimates that
2 in fiscal year 2014, Gulf of Mexico offshore oil and natural
3 gas activity sustained 651,000 jobs, including 18,000 in
4 Alabama, and provided over seven billion dollars in revenue to
5 the federal government; and

6 WHEREAS, an analysis by Quest Offshore has estimated
7 that for Alabama, expanded access to Gulf of Mexico energy
8 resources could create 23,000 jobs, over 1.7 billion dollars
9 in annual Gross Domestic Product, and over 3.5 billion dollars
10 in state government revenue; and

11 WHEREAS, the Quest Offshore analysis also found that
12 expanded access to Gulf of Mexico energy resources could
13 generate an additional one million barrels of oil equivalent
14 per day, or 55 percent of the nation's daily crude oil and
15 petroleum product imports from the Persian Gulf; and

16 WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior has
17 estimated that without Gulf of Mexico lease sales, the nation
18 would have to rely on imports to replace nearly 60 percent of
19 the foregone production; and without Gulf of Mexico lease
20 sales over a five-year period, between five billion dollars
21 and 13 billion dollars in environmental and social costs would
22 result; and

23 WHEREAS, the United States Interior Secretary has
24 stated, "...it is better to develop our energy here under
25 reasonable regulations rather than have it produced overseas
26 with little or no regulation...."; and

1 WHEREAS, offshore oil and natural gas revenue
2 sharing, authorized by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act
3 of 2006, is essential to maintaining a strong Alabama
4 coastline and economy and ensuing the long-term sustainability
5 of Alabama's energy infrastructure; and

6 WHEREAS, the federal government has previously
7 proposed the repeal of revenue sharing; and

8 WHEREAS, members of the Alabama Congressional
9 Delegation have supported revenue sharing and efforts to lift
10 the existing statutory cap of Gulf of Mexico revenue sharing;
11 now therefore,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
13 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we urge the federal government
14 to provide for continued and expanded access in the Gulf of
15 Mexico in the 2019-2024 National OCS Program.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we further urge the
17 federal government to continue revenue sharing with Gulf Coast
18 states and support congressional efforts to lift the existing
19 revenue sharing cap currently in place for gulf producing
20 states.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this
22 resolution be transmitted to the President of the United
23 States, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, the
24 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
25 Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and each member
26 of the Alabama Congressional Delegation.