

## Senate Resolution 706

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Jones II of the 22nd, Watson of the 1st, Henson of the 41st and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting Georgia's coastal tourism and fisheries and opposing seismic testing and oil  
2 drilling activities off of Georgia's coast; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's fishing and tourism industries and the state's economy are dependent  
4 on healthy natural environments and safe ocean systems along the Georgia coast; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia's coast supports a significant fishing and tourism industry, which  
6 benefits the state economy in terms of 21,000 jobs and over \$1.1 billion of Georgia's gross  
7 domestic product (GDP); and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia's coast contains 368,000 acres of saltmarsh that provide essential  
9 nursery grounds for fish, shellfish, crab, and other marine life important to the vitality of  
10 local fisheries; and

11 WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore  
12 oil pose the risk of a spill that could adversely affect Georgia's fishing and coastal tourism  
13 industries for decades; and

14 WHEREAS, offshore oil drilling requires onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or  
15 refineries, which may compromise the character of our coastal landscapes and our  
16 communities; and

17 WHEREAS, scientific studies have found seismic testing to harm marine fisheries and  
18 marine mammals that are important to Georgia's coastal communities and economies; and

19 WHEREAS, seismic testing and offshore oil drilling risk the survival of the 400 remaining  
20 North Atlantic right whales, Georgia's state marine mammal that travels to our coast to give  
21 birth and is considered the most critically endangered whale species in the world; and

22 WHEREAS, seismic testing and offshore oil drilling activities may interfere with critical  
23 military preparedness, training, and testing activities taking place off the coast of Georgia  
24 and at King's Bay Naval Submarine Base and the Naval Undersea Warfare Training Range,  
25 which is under construction; and

26 WHEREAS, more than 140 of Georgia's towns and cities along the Atlantic Coast have  
27 passed official resolutions against Atlantic oil drilling and seismic testing, including  
28 Savannah, Tybee Island, Brunswick, St. Marys, Kingsland, Hinesville, and Porterdale; and

29 WHEREAS, 39 businesses in Georgia have come out publicly against offshore oil drilling  
30 and seismic testing due to the adverse economic and environmental impacts; and

31 WHEREAS, a healthy tourism industry and economy are vital to protect the public health,  
32 safety, and welfare of Georgia citizens.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
34 express their support for coastal Georgia tourism and fisheries and voice their opposition to  
35 oil exploration and drilling activities, including seismic testing, off of the Georgia coast.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
37 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the  
38 press.