

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.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE