

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 139

BY REPRESENTATIVE COUSSAN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the United States Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to maintain region-wide leasing in the Gulf of Mexico in the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has released its 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program which is now in its public comment period; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana oil and gas industry and its workers, suppliers, and the entire business community have expressed their strong support for offshore energy exploration in comments filed with BOEM concerning the development of the federal government's "Five-Year Plan" for offshore oil and gas leasing program for 2017-2022; and

WHEREAS, the American economy is truly dependent on and stimulated by the oil and gas production of the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico provides nearly twenty percent of the nation's crude oil supply, an energy supply that powers our entire country; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry in the United States remains a stable force around the globe due to the Gulf's output of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2014 alone, Gulf of Mexico energy development supported over six hundred fifty thousand jobs, contributed over \$64 billion in gross domestic product, and provided over \$7 billion in revenue to the federal government; and

WHEREAS, offshore energy development and production in the Gulf of Mexico is vital to the economic well-being of the Gulf Coast states, coastal communities, and the entire nation; and

WHEREAS, as BOEM itself recognizes in their 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program, the Gulf is ". . . one of the richest oil and natural gas regions in the world . . ." and concluded that removal of the Gulf of Mexico from

the next leasing program would cause incremental environmental and social costs estimated between \$5 billion to \$13 billion due to a greater reliance on energy from other sources; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has been consistently ranked number two in the nation in natural gas production, ranked in the top five in oil production, and our refining capability is second only to Texas, our closer friend and neighbor-state; and

WHEREAS, because of Louisiana's enviable energy infrastructure, the state and its citizens not only benefit from the production of oil and natural gas but additionally benefit from the transportation of hydrocarbons via pipelines to Louisiana's refineries and petrochemical plants; and

WHEREAS, our nation's energy policy is dependent on a thriving oil and natural gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico and requires continued and expanded access to all areas of the Gulf of Mexico to increase and improve the economic well-being of residents, workers, and businesses in the Gulf states region; and

WHEREAS, our nation's energy policy directly affects our trade policy with other countries, our workforce, our economy, and our position as a global super-power to protect our interests at home and abroad.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana House of Representatives does hereby recognize that it is in the best interest of Louisiana's citizens and businesses and those of the entire nation and does hereby respectfully urge and request the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to maintain region-wide leasing in the Gulf of Mexico in the 2017-2022 program without any further exclusions or restrictions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior and the members of Louisiana's congressional delegation, and be submitted to the appropriate Federal Register comment docket related to the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program (BOEM-2016-0003) and Draft Programmatic Environmental Statement (BOEM-2016-0002).

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES