

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 39

Expressing the sense of Congress that the moratorium on new oil and natural gas leasing activity on submerged land of the outer Continental Shelf should be maintained.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 17, 2001

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the moratorium on new oil and natural gas leasing activity on submerged land of the outer Continental Shelf should be maintained.

Whereas during the last 8 years, the Federal Government has operated robust offshore and onshore oil, gas, and coal leasing programs that matched or exceeded production levels during the administrations of former President Reagan and former President Bush;

Whereas offshore, the United States has leased and currently manages more than 44,000,000 acres of outer Continental Shelf land;

Whereas proposals to provide more access to currently protected Federal land for development by the oil, gas, and

coal industries ignore the quantity of land that is already available for that purpose;

Whereas it is not necessary to drill in sensitive areas to meet the energy needs of the United States;

Whereas since 1982, there has been in effect a statutory moratorium on new leasing, pre-leasing, and related activities on submerged land of the outer Continental Shelf;

Whereas in 1990, former President Bush used his authority to declare areas of the outer Continental Shelf along the coastlines of Washington, Oregon, California, Bristol Bay, Alaska, and the eastern Gulf of Mexico, and more than 100 miles off the Florida coast, off limits to new drilling through calendar year 2000;

Whereas in 1998, former President Clinton extended the Bush limitation through June 2012;

Whereas citizens of California, Florida, and other States affected by the outer Continental Shelf drilling moratorium are overwhelmingly opposed to new oil drilling off their coastlines and are concerned about plans to open the Florida Gulf Coast to new leasing;

Whereas a majority of people of the United States are growing increasingly concerned about the environment and believe that protecting the environment should take precedence over economic development;

Whereas the people of the United States have made a decision to protect the coastlines of the United States from oil development, because the people know that far better alternatives exist; and

Whereas there are many other worthy options before Congress that could increase energy independence and reduce reliance on foreign oil, such as reauthorization of the

Strategic Petroleum Reserve, incentives to improve energy efficiency, research into renewable energy and alternative fuels, and full funding of energy conservation and efficiency programs (including programs for solar and renewable energy, weatherization, and other initiatives): Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the mor-
 3 atorium in effect as of the date of adoption of this Resolu-
 4 tion on new oil and natural gas leasing, pre-leasing, and
 5 related activities on submerged land of the outer Conti-
 6 nental Shelf should be maintained.

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