



HR0739

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The oil and natural gas industry is a vital part
3 of the United States' economy, and increasing domestic energy
4 production and reducing dependence on foreign supplies are in
5 the best interest of our nation's strategic and economic
6 well-being; and

7 WHEREAS, High oil and gas prices, our growing reliance on
8 imported oil, and price volatility clearly demonstrate the
9 imperative to change course and expand domestic oil and gas
10 production; and

11 WHEREAS, Expanding domestic production will reduce our
12 dependence on foreign oil and natural gas and significantly
13 reduce the billions of dollars we send abroad each year; and

14 WHEREAS, As our reliance on oil and natural gas will
15 necessarily continue for the foreseeable future, we can no
16 longer rule out the value of our own significant proven oil and
17 gas reserves nor the value of a future significant discovery
18 anywhere in or off the shores of the United States; taking
19 advantage of our own resources will create new investment and
20 new jobs here at home; and

21 WHEREAS, The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is an area of

1 some 1.76 billion acres submerged off the United States'
2 coasts that is controlled by the federal government;
3 approximately 97% of the OCS is under federal moratoria
4 preventing any exploration or production of oil and natural
5 gas; and

6 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
7 estimates that the OCS contains 86 billion barrels of oil and
8 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas; because exploration is
9 prohibited on the vast majority of the OCS, these estimates
10 are primarily based on survey projections and are likely quite
11 conservative; additionally, approximately 83% of federal lands
12 onshore, containing some 28 billion barrels of oil and 207
13 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, are under moratoria or
14 severely restricted; and

15 WHEREAS, In the 26 years since the OCS moratoria were put
16 into place, the technology utilized to extract oil and gas has
17 evolved, significantly reducing the environmental impact of
18 producing the resources; advanced multidimensional seismic
19 imaging allows a much higher degree of accuracy in locating
20 oil and gas deposits, which reduces the amount of drilling
21 necessary while increasing the amount of resources recovered;
22 pressure gauges and safety valves incorporated into offshore
23 production facilities diminish the possibility of spills;
24 these technologies have reduced the spillage rate to just

1 0.001%; and

2 WHEREAS, The U.S. has significant reserves of liquid fuels
3 derived from coal, oil sands, and oil shale as well as expanded
4 infrastructure to enable greater access to these resources
5 located throughout North America; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Energy, the United
7 States has recoverable reserves of coal equivalent in energy
8 value to nearly six trillion barrels of oil, oil shale
9 amounting to more than two trillion barrels of oil, and heavy
10 oil and oil sands equal to another 154 billion barrels of oil,
11 some portion of which can be converted to liquid fuels such as
12 gasoline and diesel; and

13 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, much like the moratoria on energy
14 development on the OCS, there is also a legal prohibition
15 against the federal government leasing much of this land for
16 exploration for oil shale; keeping these lands off limits is
17 stunting the investments necessary to improve the technology
18 to extract these valuable resources in an environmentally
19 responsible manner; and

20 WHEREAS, If the United States could embark on new domestic
21 oil and gas exploration efforts and invest in building its
22 domestic energy infrastructure, it would not only help with

1 the energy transition here at home, it would also help keep
2 costs down for American families, strengthen our economy,
3 create jobs, and make American energy secure; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we strongly urge the President of the United States to develop
7 and implement new sound domestic energy exploration and
8 production policies to strengthen U.S. energy security and
9 ensure that the United States can provide its people with
10 stable, affordable, and reliable energy prices; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That we urge the U.S. to undertake a sustained
13 and enduring federal research and development effort, in
14 partnership with private industry, universities, and national
15 laboratories to evaluate technologies and practices to
16 minimize the impact of the development of these underutilized
17 fuels on the land and water resources of the United States,
18 while also evaluating technologies and practices to reduce the
19 energy intensity and carbon footprint of these fuel sources;
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
22 delivered to the President of the United States, the United
23 States Secretary of the Interior, the United States Secretary

1 of Transportation, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,
2 and all members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.