



Adopted Unanimously on October 14, 2013  
Sponsored by: Representative Bill Sandifer of South Carolina

## **2.2013 – Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Access Resolution**

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has called for an “all of the above” energy strategy including the use of domestic oil and natural gas; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional moratorium prohibiting oil and natural gas leasing, exploration, and production on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) expired in 2008; and

WHEREAS, 87 percent of federal offshore acreage is currently off limits to any development of oil and natural gas; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Interior, existing resource estimates for the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf are 3.3 billion barrels of oil and 31.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, United States Department of Interior resource estimates for the Eastern Gulf of Mexico are 5.1 billion barrels of oil and 16.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas; however, this area is under Congressional moratorium until 2022; and

WHEREAS, the last seismic surveys of the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf were conducted 30 years ago and resource estimates are out of date; and

WHEREAS, technological advances in seismic surveying have led to significant increases in resource estimates and production totals in other OCS areas; and

WHEREAS, seismic surveying can be done safely without threat to marine environments and mammals; and

WHEREAS, permits for conducting seismic surveys may only be issued upon completion of the Geological and Geophysical Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that developing offshore oil and natural gas in areas currently off-limits to production could increase domestic oil production by the equivalent of 30 percent of current United States crude oil imports, create more than 1 million new jobs and generate \$127 billion in government revenue by 2030; and

WHEREAS, governors from Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina have called for the inclusion of the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf in future federal lease sales; and

WHEREAS, support for a regional revenue and royalty sharing program among participating states has growing support from the Congressional delegations of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina and passed the U.S. House of Representatives and is currently included in offshore legislation before the U.S. Senate; and



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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southern States Energy Board strongly urges Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to mandate timely completion of the Geological and Geophysical Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf and include the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf in the 2017-2022 Five Year Plan.