



Policy Resolution 3.2022

Adopted on August 29, 2022

Resolution in Support of Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas Leasing

Sponsors

Senator Joel Carter, Mississippi*
Senator Jimmy Holley, Alabama
Senator Gary Stubblefield, Arkansas
Representative Howard Sanderford, Alabama
Representative Rick Beck, Arkansas
Representative Debbie Villio, Louisiana
Representative Brent Powell, Mississippi

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico is a critical part of meeting basic U.S. energy supplies and produces approximately fifteen percent of the United States crude oil and five percent of the United States natural gas while contributing five to eight billion dollars to the federal treasury each year; and

WHEREAS, inflation, along with crude oil and natural gas prices are at historic highs, increasing the burden on energy consumers, especially those who can least afford higher prices; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Interior (U.S. DOI), under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, regulates offshore oil and gas leasing and development; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior is required to prepare a five-year plan leasing schedule for offshore oil and gas leasing; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. DOI cancelled three lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska in May 2022 as gasoline prices were at an all-time high, further exacerbating the energy price issues and burden on consumers; and

WHEREAS, American oil and gas is produced under the most stringent environmental and regulatory conditions, including in the Gulf of Mexico where the oil produced has the lowest carbon intensity; and

WHEREAS, the President has asked for OPEC+ and other foreign and adversarial nations to produce more oil and gas to help the United States meet its demand, putting the United States at a national security disadvantage; and

WHEREAS, leasing and producing oil and natural gas domestically ensures American energy independence and helps protect consumers from price volatility.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern States Energy Board urges the U.S. Department of the Interior to expeditiously complete and deliver a robust and competitive five-year plan for oil and gas leasing on the outer continental shelf;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Department of the Interior hold the lease sales that are included in the current proposed five-year plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the absence of an active five-year plan, the Southern States Energy Board urges Congress to take action to pass legislation that mandates two region-wide lease sales to be held on an annual basis in the Gulf of Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, and the leadership of the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

