**A** **JOINT RESOLUTION**

TO REQUEST THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, BARACK OBAMA, OPEN OUR ABUNDANT OIL AND NATURAL GAS RESOURCES THROUGHOUT OUR COUNTRY AND ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR TO LIFT THE 2010 BAN ON ALL OFFSHORE DRILLING EXPLORATION WITHIN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS, AND TO REQUEST THE PRESIDENT ALSO TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, AND ANY BODY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT REGULATES OR SIMILARLY IS CONCERNED WITH THE EXPLORATION OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS TO EXPEDITE ALL PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE ENERGY RESOURCES.

Whereas, the people of the great state of South Carolina demand swift action by the administration of the federal government regarding the energy crisis our State and nation faces. With the direct impact of high energy costs upon our economy; with regards to, but not limited to, fuel, transportation, food, durable goods, clothing, job creation, tourism, education, and all sectors that require fossil fuels within production, manufacturing, and delivery of goods and services; the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina hereby requests that President Barack Obama use his authority over the executive branch of the United States of America to make available our country’s energy resources to be placed on line for energy exploration; and

Whereas, the people of South Carolina have heard repeatedly that these energy resources will not be available to the energy markets for at least seven years, and possibly more. We respectfully condemn such statements as an excuse to do nothing about the energy crisis we face. South Carolinians have heard these excuses from the federal government, beginning with the last administration, for over eight years and will no longer accept such irresponsible statements as these; and

Whereas, considering the fact that oil is traded on a futures market with regards to predictions of future oil demands and resources and the availability of new oil explorations, the people of South Carolina are confident, as history has shown, that once President Barack Obama directs the opening of new oil and natural gas resources, the cost of energy within our State and throughout our nation will dramatically decrease. Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. The South Carolina General Assembly, representing the concerns and will of the People of the Great State of South Carolina, hereby requests the President of the United States of America to open our abundant oil and natural gas resources throughout our country and issue an executive order to the Department of Interior to lift the 2010 ban on all offshore drilling exploration within the outer continental shelf lands; and, further, request the President of the United States of America direct the Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and any body of the federal government that regulates or similarly is concerned with the exploration of oil and natural gas to expedite all permitting requirements for the development of these energy resources.

SECTION 2. Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States.

SECTION 3. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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