**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE SUPPORT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES OFF SOUTH CAROLINA’S COAST AND THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION FOR THE STATE.

Whereas, the United States Department of the Interior recently lifted a ban that would allow for new offshore oil and gas drilling in nearly all of the coastal waters of the United States in an attempt to bolster domestic energy production; and

Whereas, the General Assembly vehemently disagrees with the decision of Governor Henry McMaster to seek a waiver, as the approval of this waiver would be tantamount to the State exercising excessive control of South Carolina’s free market; and

Whereas, despite common misconceptions, offshore oil production lowers the amount of oil released into the ocean by reducing the natural seepage of oil, with sixty‑three percent of hydrocarbon pollution in the waters of the United States coming from natural seeps, while only one percent is due to offshore drilling and extraction; and

Whereas, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas in South Carolina would generate over 35,000 jobs by 2035, more than four billion dollars in annual added economic activity, and almost four billion dollars in new state revenue; and

Whereas, South Carolina’s agriculture, business, manufacturing and individual households would each benefit from lower energy costs and improved energy security as a result of expanded United States energy production; and

Whereas, oil rigs create new and unique environments in the ocean for marine species to inhabit as fish, birds, and other marine life flock to the rig and establish themselves on these manmade structures as if they were reefs; and

Whereas, the General Assembly is excited about this opportunity to reap massive economic benefits through domestic energy production while protecting the coast through reasonable regulations promulgated by the state and federal government. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the South Carolina General Assembly, by this resolution, express their support to offshore drilling activities off South Carolina’s coast and the potential economic and environmental benefits of domestic energy production for the State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Department of the Interior and the South Carolina Congressional delegation.

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