

CHAPTER 224

Substitute for HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5030

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the federal government to lift the moratorium on offshore drilling for oil and natural gas.

WHEREAS, Policies of the federal government have placed much of the coastal Outer Continental Shelf off limits to oil and natural gas production; and

WHEREAS, Development of oil and natural gas resources, where allowed off our shores, has coexisted for decades with recreational and commercial activities while benefiting the entire nation; and

WHEREAS, Offshore oil and natural gas operations have a long history of environmentally sensitive and safe performance; and

WHEREAS, Offshore development of oil and natural gas has provided needed supplies of American energy, generated substantial local, state and federal revenues and created thousands of jobs and economic development; and

WHEREAS, America's increased dependence on foreign energy supplies and global competition for oil and natural gas will create a threat to our national security; and

WHEREAS, The nation's farming and ranching sector depend on a reliable and affordable supply of energy to run equipment, fertilize crops and transport products to market; and

WHEREAS, The Economic Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture estimates that farmers' fuel expenses for 2005 will have exceeded their 2004 fuel expenses by 41 percent, and higher energy prices mean increased costs to farmers and ranchers, who already face tremendous economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, The fertilizer industry depends on natural gas, and since 2002, 36 percent of the U.S. fertilizer industry has been shut down or mothballed and the industry has been forced to move production to other countries, creating a threat to our food security; and

WHEREAS, The Energy Information Administration of the United States Department of Energy projects that the average residential customer this winter will spend approximately 48 percent more on natural gas than last winter, creating a serious hardship for those who lived on a fixed or limited income, especially senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Outer Continental Shelf represents one of the brightest spots in terms of potential United States energy resources: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That the State of Kansas urges the Minerals Management Service of the United States Department of Interior to include all Outer Continental Shelf planning areas in its proposed five-year plan for 2007 through 2012 and approve the broadest possible plan for offshore development; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of State is directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to the United States Secretaries of Commerce, Interior and Energy, and to the administrators of the Minerals Management Service, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency, and to the President and Congressional leadership, and to each member of the Kansas congressional delegation.

Adopted by the House March 2, 2006.

Adopted by the Senate March 31, 2006.
