

By: Clardy

H.C.R. No. 91

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, A provision in President Barack Obama's 2016 federal
2 budget would deprive Texas and three other Gulf Coast states of
3 hundreds of millions of dollars by redirecting funds owed them
4 under the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act; and

5 WHEREAS, The legislation known as GOMESA requires the federal
6 government to share with Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama
7 37.5 percent of the revenue it collects from offshore oil and gas
8 rigs in the Gulf; in 2013, these rigs produced 17 percent of the
9 nation's 2.7 billion barrels of crude oil; and

10 WHEREAS, To date, only about \$34 million has been distributed
11 under GOMESA, mostly generated by drilling in the eastern Gulf;
12 revenue will increase substantially in a few years as the law begins
13 to cover the far more productive central Gulf, and the White House
14 estimates the value of GOMESA revenue at \$367 million for 2018; and

15 WHEREAS, The GOMESA funds are intended to compensate the
16 states for the environmental impact of offshore drilling, but the
17 president's budget would reallocate payments to a broad range of
18 programs around the country; such a redirection of funds would be
19 particularly inappropriate, given that inland states may keep half
20 of energy revenue produced on federal property, while the states
21 covered by GOMESA are receiving a little more than a third of
22 offshore drilling revenue that affects their coastlines; and

23 WHEREAS, The Gulf Coast states and neighboring offshore
24 waters have produced hundreds of billions of barrels of oil and tens

1 of trillions of cubic feet of natural gas over the past few decades,
2 but there are environmental costs associated with offshore
3 drilling; bipartisan legislation was passed to allow Texas and the
4 other states to develop appropriate programs concerning natural
5 resources along the Gulf shoreline, such as coastal restoration,
6 and the redistribution of offshore drilling revenue promised under
7 GOMESA would subvert the intention of Congress; now, therefore, be
8 it

9 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby respectfully urge the president of the United States to
11 abandon the budget proposal redirecting offshore drilling revenue
12 due to Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi under the Gulf of
13 Mexico Energy Security Act; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
15 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
16 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
17 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all members
18 of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this
19 resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to
20 the Congress of the United States of America.