

## House Resolution 2216

By: Representatives Geisinger of the 48<sup>th</sup>, Lewis of the 15<sup>th</sup>, Burkhalter of the 50<sup>th</sup>, Murphy of the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Forster of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the federal government for reviewing whether the existing federal moratorium  
2 on offshore gas drilling should be removed; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, exploration for natural gas in the State of Georgia's coastal areas is currently  
4 prohibited under the federal ban on offshore gas drilling, a moratorium that has been in place  
5 since 1982; and

6 WHEREAS, the rising demand for natural gas as a clean-burning fuel source coupled with  
7 a limited supply of natural gas will continue to boost heating and electricity costs, affecting  
8 homeowners, small business owners, and a range of major industries; and

9 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to the Elba Island Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal, one of the  
10 nation's key receiving points for natural gas; and

11 WHEREAS, the provision of an increased diversity of natural gas supplies to Georgia will  
12 offset part of the need for supplies from the Gulf of Mexico and will help stabilize or lower  
13 the price for natural gas in Georgia, helping to create a favorable energy market for Georgia  
14 consumers; and

15 WHEREAS, a favorable energy market in Georgia will aid economic development, help  
16 attract new jobs, and help to secure existing jobs; and

17 WHEREAS, natural gas is a clean burning fuel that is more environmentally safe to produce  
18 and use than other fossil fuels; and

19 WHEREAS, the continental shelf off the coast of Georgia is about 80 miles wide with the  
20 eastern boundary being marked by the Gulf Stream and is the widest in the South Atlantic  
21 Bight, which extends from Cape Canaveral, Florida, to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina; and

1 WHEREAS, Georgia's coast is more than 100 miles in length and has two highly developed  
2 ports in Brunswick and Savannah, which is home to the largest single-terminal container  
3 facility of its kind on the Eastern and Gulf Coasts of the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, in order to meet the energy demands of Georgians and the rest of this nation and  
5 to benefit the Georgia economy, there is a need to resume exploration for and drilling of  
6 offshore natural gas; and

7 WHEREAS, the federal government is considering the removal of this moratorium.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
9 the members of this body commend the federal government for reviewing whether the  
10 federal moratorium on offshore drilling for natural gas should be removed.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
12 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to President George W. Bush,  
13 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States  
14 Senate, and the members of the Georgia congressional delegation.