

House Resolution 1017

By: Representatives Bearden of the 68th, Amerson of the 9th, and Lewis of the 15th

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Congress and the President to remove the moratorium on offshore oil and gas
2 drilling; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, exploration for natural gas in the State of Georgia's outer continental shelf areas
4 is currently prohibited under the federal ban on offshore oil and gas drilling, a moratorium
5 that has been in place 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 outer continental shelf off the coast of Georgia is about 80 miles wide with
20 the 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.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
8 the members of this body strongly urge the Congress of the United States and the President
9 to remove the moratorium on offshore drilling for oil and natural gas to allow coastal states,
10 such as Georgia, the right to determine its offshore resources.

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.