

The House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment offers the following substitute to HR 337:

A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for development of Georgia's energy
2 resources, both on land and offshore, in a balanced manner which promotes this state's
3 economy and energy independence while respecting the natural environment and protecting
4 it for future generations; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, Georgia is one of the fastest growing states in the United States, having grown
6 by nearly 1.5 million people, or 18 percent, between 2000 and 2008; and

7 WHEREAS, despite an unemployment rate of 8.1 percent in December, 2008, Georgia's
8 highest unemployment rate in 25 years, this state's population is still expected to continue
9 growing; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia's gross state product ranked tenth nationally in 2007, according to the
11 Georgia Chamber of Commerce; and

12 WHEREAS, even with energy conservation efforts, Georgia's growing population requires
13 increased production of energy; and

14 WHEREAS, although the United States has the largest share of the world's coal reserves, the
15 State of Georgia unfortunately is not blessed with abundant supplies of that resource, nor
16 have the lands in this state been endowed with ample supplies of the other traditional
17 conventional energy resources of oil or natural gas; and

18 WHEREAS, despite a traditionally abundant supply of water, droughts within Georgia in
19 recent years have strained water supplies and limited the ability of hydroelectric power to
20 help meet this state's growing energy needs; and

21 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has been dependent upon other states and nations to meet
22 most of its energy needs; and

23 WHEREAS, Georgia's abundant supply of wood and biomass and this state's highly regarded
24 colleges and universities provide the infrastructure for the development of alternative,
25 nonconventional energy resources in this state; and

26 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has passed legislation over the years supporting the
27 development of alternative energy sources; and

28 WHEREAS, renewable energy companies have invested \$700 million in Georgia over the
29 last three years; and

30 WHEREAS, the United States has extracted large supplies of oil and natural gas along the
31 Gulf of Mexico for decades, in the vast majority of instances without harm to the
32 environment thanks to advances in technology and more stringent safety requirements; and

33 WHEREAS, mineral exploration along Georgia's coast could result in the discovery of oil
34 and natural gas in sufficient supplies to be viably yet safely extracted; and

35 WHEREAS, the extraction of oil and natural gas from the Georgia coast would help both
36 Georgia and the United States move toward the goal of energy independence; and

37 WHEREAS, the potential extraction of oil and natural gas along Georgia's coast would boost
38 this state's economy through the sharing of mineral royalties; and

39 WHEREAS, nuclear energy production is another potential alternative form of energy supply
40 that may benefit this state; and

41 WHEREAS, there is also potential for developing energy derived from wind and ocean
42 waves and tides.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
44 the members thereof express their support for development of Georgia's energy resources,
45 both on land and offshore, in a balanced manner which promotes this state's economy and
46 energy independence while respecting the natural environment and protecting it for future
47 generations.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
49 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to President Barack Obama,

50 the United States Secretary of the Interior, each member of the Georgia congressional
51 delegation, and the Director of the Minerals Management Service of the United States
52 Department of the Interior.