

Senate Resolution 88

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd, Watson of the 1st and Jones of the 10th

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting Georgia's coastal tourism and fisheries and opposing seismic testing and oil
2 drilling activities off of Georgia's coast; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's fishing and tourism industries and the state's economy are dependent
4 on healthy natural environments and safe ocean systems along the Georgia coast; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia's coast supports a significant fishing and tourism industry, which
6 benefits the state economy in terms of 21,000 jobs and over \$1.1 billion of Georgia's gross
7 domestic product; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia's coast contains 368,000 acres of saltmarsh that provide essential
9 nursery grounds for fish, shellfish, crab, and other marine life important to the vitality of
10 local fisheries; and

11 WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore
12 oil pose the risk of a spill that could adversely affect Georgia's fishing and coastal tourism
13 industries for decades; and

14 WHEREAS, offshore oil drilling requires onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or
15 refineries, which may compromise the character of our coastal landscapes and our
16 communities; and

17 WHEREAS, scientific studies have found seismic testing to harm marine fisheries and
18 marine mammals that are important to Georgia's coastal communities and economies; and

19 WHEREAS, seismic testing and offshore oil drilling risk the survival of the 400 remaining
20 North Atlantic right whales, Georgia's state marine mammal, that travel to our coast to give
21 birth and are considered the most critically endangered whale species in the world; and

22 WHEREAS, seismic testing and offshore oil drilling activities may interfere with critical
23 military preparedness, training, and testing activities taking place off the coast of Georgia
24 and at King's Bay Naval Submarine Base and the Naval Undersea Warfare Training Range,
25 which is under construction; and

26 WHEREAS, more than 200 towns and cities along the Atlantic Coast have passed official
27 resolutions against Atlantic oil drilling and seismic testing, including Savannah, Tybee
28 Island, Brunswick, St. Marys, Kingsland, Hinesville, Porterdale, Richmond Hill,
29 Thunderbolt, and Midway, as well as the City of Atlanta; and

30 WHEREAS, over 200 businesses in Georgia have come out publicly against offshore oil
31 drilling and seismic testing due to the adverse economic and environmental impacts; and

32 WHEREAS, a healthy tourism industry and economy are vital to protect the public health,
33 safety, and welfare of Georgia's citizens.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 express their support for Georgia's coastal tourism and fisheries and voice their opposition
36 to oil exploration and drilling activities, including seismic testing, off of the Georgia coast.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
38 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
39 press.