Resolution Urging Congress to End the Outer Continental Shelf Moratorium on Oil and Natural Gas Exploration and Production

Whereas, all Americans are suffering from record high energy prices; and

Whereas, a federal legislative moratorium prohibits oil and natural gas drilling, exploration, and production on the outer continental shelves (OCS); and

Whereas, coastal states should have the right to determine on their own whether such drilling, exploration, and production should be permitted along their coasts; and

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Interior, there are an estimated 86 billion barrels worth of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas on the OCS; and

Whereas, Congress should eliminate policies, such as the OCS moratorium, which artificially limit oil and natural gas supply and thereby increases energy prices; and

Whereas, lower energy costs and more reliable energy markets in the United States would promote economic growth and prosperity; and

Whereas, coastal states would share in significant revenue from OCS leases; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil drilling would lead to significant job growth for coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has stated “Advanced, more energy-efficient drilling and production methods practically eliminate spills from offshore platforms.”

therefore, be it resolved, that the American Legislative Exchange Council strongly urges Congress to end the OCS moratorium and give coastal states the authority to determine whether offshore drilling should be permitted along their coast.

Adopted by the Civil Justice Task Force on August 1, 2008.

Approved by the ALEC Board of Directors on September 11, 2008


This Resolution expresses opposition to a federal moratorium on deepwater drilling in the outer continental shelf. Note that this Resolution was passed less than two years before the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill revealed the dangers of oil drilling.