REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

MR. PRESIDENT AND MR. SPEAKER:

We, the undersigned conferees, have had under consideration the amendments to the following entitled BILL:

S.B. No. 2278: Severance tax; extend repealer on "new" oil and gas.

We, therefore, respectfully submit the following report and recommendation:

- 1. That the House recede from its Amendment No. 1.
- 2. That the Senate and House adopt the following amendment:

Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

- SECTION 1. Section 27-25-503, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 18 amended as follows:
- 19 27-25-503. (1) Except as otherwise provided herein, there
- 20 is hereby levied, to be collected hereafter, as provided herein,
- 21 annual privilege taxes upon every person engaging or continuing
- 22 within this state in the business of producing, or severing oil,
- 23 as defined herein, from the soil or water for sale, transport,
- 24 storage, profit or for commercial use. The amount of such tax
- 25 shall be measured by the value of the oil produced, and shall be
- 26 levied and assessed at the rate of six percent (6%) of the value
- 27 thereof at the point of production. However, such tax shall be
- 28 levied and assessed at the rate of three percent (3%) of the value
- 29 of the oil at the point of production on oil produced by an
- 30 enhanced oil recovery method in which carbon dioxide is used;
- 31 provided, that such carbon dioxide is transported by pipeline to
- 32 the oil well site and on oil produced by any other enhanced oil
- 33 recovery method approved and permitted by the State Oil and Gas
- 34 Board on or after April 1, 1994, pursuant to Section 53-3-101 et
- 35 seq.
- 36 (2) The tax is hereby levied upon the entire production in
- 37 this state regardless of the place of sale or to whom sold, or by
- 38 whom used, or the fact that the delivery may be made to points
- 39 outside the state, and the tax shall accrue at the time such oil

- 40 is severed from the soil, or water, and in its natural, unrefined
- 41 or unmanufactured state.
- 42 (3) (a) Oil produced from a discovery well for which
- 43 drilling or re-entry commenced on or after April 1, 1994, but
- 44 before July 1, 1999, shall be exempt from the taxes levied under
- 45 this section for a period of five (5) years beginning on the date
- 46 of first sale of production from such well, provided that the
- 47 average monthly sales price of such oil does not exceed
- 48 Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) per barrel. The exemption for oil
- 49 produced from a discovery well as described in this paragraph (a)
- 50 shall be repealed from and after July 1, 2003, provided that any
- 51 such production for which a permit was granted by the board before
- 52 July 1, 2003, shall be exempt for an entire period of five (5)
- 53 years, notwithstanding that the repeal of this provision has
- 54 become effective. Oil produced from development wells or
- 55 replacement wells drilled in connection with discovery wells for
- 56 which drilling commenced on or after January 1, 1994, but before
- 57 July 1, 1999, shall be assessed at the rate of three percent (3%)
- 58 of the value of the oil at the point of production for a period of
- 59 three (3) years. The reduced rate of assessment of oil produced
- 60 from development wells or replacement wells as described in this
- 61 paragraph (a) shall be repealed from and after January 1, 2003,
- 62 provided that any such production for which drilling commenced
- 63 before January 1, 2003, shall be assessed at the reduced rate for
- 64 an entire period of three (3) years, notwithstanding that the
- 65 repeal of this provision has become effective.
- (b) Oil produced from a discovery well for which
- 67 drilling or re-entry commenced on or after July 1, 1999, shall be
- 68 assessed at the rate of three percent (3%) of the value of the oil
- 69 at the point of production for a period of five (5) years
- 70 beginning on the date of first sale of production from such well,
- 71 provided that the average monthly sales price of such oil does not
- 72 <u>exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20.00)</u> per barrel. The reduced rate of
- 73 <u>assessment of oil produced from a discovery well as described in</u>
- 74 this paragraph (b) shall be repealed from and after July 1, 2003,

- 75 provided that any such production for which a permit was granted
- 76 by the board before July 1, 2003, shall be assessed at the reduced
- 77 rate for an entire period of five (5) years, notwithstanding that
- 78 the repeal of this provision has become effective. Oil produced
- 79 from development wells or replacement wells drilled in connection
- 80 with discovery wells for which drilling commenced on or after July
- 81 1, 1999, shall be assessed at the rate of three percent (3%) of
- 82 the value of the oil at the point of production for a period of
- 83 three (3) years. The reduced rate of assessment of oil produced
- 84 <u>from development wells or replacement wells as described in this</u>
- 85 paragraph (b) shall be repealed from and after January 1, 2003,
- 86 provided that any such production for which drilling commenced
- 87 before July 1, 2003, shall be assessed at the reduced rate for an
- 88 entire period of three (3) years, notwithstanding that the repeal
- 89 of this provision has become effective.
- 90 (4) (a) Oil produced from a development well for which
- 91 drilling commenced on or after April 1, 1994, but before July 1,
- 92 1999, and for which three-dimensional seismic was utilized in
- 93 connection with the drilling of such well shall be assessed at the
- 94 rate of three percent (3%) of the value of the oil at the point of
- 95 production for a period of five (5) years, provided that the
- 96 average monthly sales price of such oil does not exceed
- 97 Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) per barrel. The reduced rate of
- 98 assessment of oil produced from a development well as described in
- 99 this paragraph (a) and for which three-dimensional seismic was
- 100 utilized shall be repealed from and after July 1, 2003, provided
- 101 that any such production for which a permit was granted by the
- 102 board before July 1, 2003, shall be assessed at the reduced rate
- 103 for an entire period of five (5) years, notwithstanding that the
- 104 repeal of this provision has become effective.
- 105 (b) Oil produced from a development well for which
- 106 drilling commenced on or after July 1, 1999, and for which
- 107 three-dimensional seismic was utilized in connection with the
- 108 drilling of such well shall be assessed at the rate of three
- 109 percent (3%) of the value of the oil at the point of production

- 110 for a period of five (5) years, provided that the average monthly
- 111 sales price of such oil does not exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20.00)
- 112 per barrel. The reduced rate of assessment of oil produced from a
- 113 development well as described in this paragraph (b) and for which
- 114 three-dimensional seismic was utilized shall be repealed from and
- 115 after July 1, 2003, provided that any such production for which a
- 116 permit was granted by the board before July 1, 2003, shall be
- 117 <u>assessed at the reduced rate for an entire period of five (5)</u>
- 118 years, notwithstanding that the repeal of this provision has
- 119 <u>become effective.</u>
- 120 (5) (a) Oil produced before July 1, 1999, from a two-year
- 121 inactive well as defined in Section 27-25-501 shall be exempt from
- 122 the taxes levied under this section for a period of three (3)
- 123 years beginning on the date of first sale of production from such
- 124 well, provided that the average monthly sales price of such oil
- 125 does not exceed Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) per barrel. The
- 126 exemption for oil produced from an inactive well shall be repealed
- 127 from and after July 1, 2003, provided that any such production
- 128 which began before July 1, 2003, shall be exempt for an entire
- 129 period of three (3) years, notwithstanding that the repeal of this
- 130 provision has become effective.
- (b) Oil produced on or after July 1, 1999, from a
- 132 two-year inactive well as defined in Section 27-25-501 shall be
- 133 exempt from the taxes levied under this section for a period of
- 134 three (3) years beginning on the date of first sale of production
- 135 from such well, provided that the average monthly sales price of
- 136 such oil does not exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) per barrel. The
- 137 exemption for oil produced from an inactive well shall be repealed
- 138 from and after July 1, 2003, provided that any such production
- 139 which began before July 1, 2003, shall be exempt for an entire
- 140 period of three (3) years, notwithstanding that the repeal of this
- 141 provision has become effective.
- 142 (6) (a) As used in this subsection the term "marginal well"
- 143 means:
- (i) A well producing a monthly average of twenty

- 145 (20) barrels of oil a day or less from a depth of seven thousand
- 146 <u>five hundred (7,500) feet or less; or</u>
- 147 <u>(ii) A well producing a monthly average of forty</u>
- 148 (40) barrels of oil a day or less from a depth that is more than
- 149 seven thousand five hundred (7,500) feet.
- 150 (b) The owner of a marginal well shall be entitled to a
- 151 refund of two-thirds (2/3) of the taxes he pays monthly pursuant
- 152 to this section on oil produced from such well if the average
- 153 monthly sales price of oil he produces from such well does not
- 154 <u>exceed Twelve Dollars (\$12.00) per barrel. In order to receive</u>
- 155 the refund provided for in this subsection the owner shall present
- 156 the State Tax Commission with a statement from the State Oil and
- 157 Gas Board certifying that the well is a marginal well within the
- 158 meaning of this subsection. The State Tax Commission shall then
- 159 determine the average monthly sales price of the oil sold from
- 160 such well and pay the refund to the owner if it determines that
- 161 the owner is eligible for such refund. Funds for such refund
- 162 shall come from the General Fund.
- (c) This subsection (6) shall stand repealed from and
- 164 <u>after July 1, 2003.</u>
- 165 (7) The State Oil and Gas Board shall have the exclusive
- 166 authority to determine the qualification of wells defined in
- 167 paragraphs (n) through (r) of Section 27-25-501.
- 168 SECTION 2. Section 27-25-703, Mississippi Code of 1972, as
- 169 amended by Senate Bill No. 3060, 1999 Regular Session, is amended
- 170 as follows:
- [Until July 1, 2004, this section shall read as follows:]
- 172 27-25-703. (1) Except as otherwise provided herein, there
- 173 is hereby levied, to be collected hereafter, as provided herein,
- 174 annual privilege taxes upon every person engaging or continuing
- 175 within this state in the business of producing, or severing gas,
- 176 as defined herein, from below the soil or water for sale,
- 177 transport, storage, profit or for commercial use. The amount of
- 178 such tax shall be measured by the value of the gas produced and
- 179 shall be levied and assessed at a rate of six percent (6%) of the

- 180 value thereof at the point of production, except as otherwise 181 provided in subsection (4) of this section.
- 182 The tax is hereby levied upon the entire production in this state, regardless of the place of sale or to whom sold or by 183 184 whom used, or the fact that the delivery may be made to points 185 outside the state, but not levied upon that gas, * * * lawfully 186 injected into the earth for cycling, repressuring, lifting or 187 enhancing the recovery of oil, nor upon gas lawfully vented or flared in connection with the production of oil, nor upon gas 188 189 condensed into liquids on which the oil severance tax of six 190 percent (6%) is paid; save and except, however, if any gas so injected into the earth is sold for such purposes, then the gas so 191 sold shall not be excluded in computing the tax * * *. The tax 192 193 shall accrue at the time the gas is produced or severed from the
- (3) Natural gas and condensate produced from any wells for which drilling is commenced after March 15, 1987, and before July 1, 1990, shall be exempt from the tax levied under this section for a period of two (2) years beginning on the date of first sale of production from such wells.

soil or water, and in its natural, unrefined or unmanufactured

- (4) Any well which begins commercial production of occluded natural gas from coal seams on or after March 20, 1990, and before July 1, 1993, shall be taxed at the rate of three and one-half percent (3-1/2%) of the gross value of the occluded natural gas from coal seams at the point of production for a period of five (5) years after such well begins production.
- 207 (a) Natural gas produced from discovery wells for which drilling or re-entry commenced on or after April 1, 1994, but 208 209 before July 1, 1999, shall be exempt from the tax levied under this section for a period of five (5) years beginning on the 210 earlier of one (1) year from completion of the well or the date of 211 first sale from such well, provided that the average monthly sales 212 213 price of such gas does not exceed Three Dollars and Fifty Cents 214 (\$3.50) per one thousand (1,000) cubic feet. The exemption for

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    natural gas produced from discovery wells as described in this
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    paragraph (a) shall be repealed from and after July 1, 2003,
    provided that any such production for which a permit was granted
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    by the board before July 1, 2003, shall be exempt for an entire
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    period of five (5) years, notwithstanding that the repeal of this
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    provision has become effective. Natural gas produced from
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    development wells or replacement wells drilled in connection with
    discovery wells for which drilling commenced on or after January
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    1, 1994, shall be assessed at a rate of three percent (3%) of the
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    value thereof at the point of production for a period of three (3)
    years. The reduced rate of assessment of natural gas produced
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    from development wells or replacement wells as described in this
    paragraph (a) shall be repealed from and after January 1, 2003,
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    provided that any such production for which drilling commenced
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    before January 1, 2003, shall be assessed at the reduced rate for
    an entire period of three (3) years, notwithstanding that the
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    repeal of this provision has become effective.
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               (b) Natural gas produced from discovery wells for which
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    drilling or re-entry commenced on or after July 1, 1999, shall be
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    assessed at a rate of three percent (3%) of the value thereof at
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    the point of production for a period of five (5) years beginning
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    on the earlier of one (1) year from completion of the well or the
    date of first sale from such well, provided that the average
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    monthly sales price of such gas does not exceed Two Dollars and
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    Fifty Cents ($2.50) per one thousand (1,000) cubic feet. The
    reduced rate of assessment of natural gas produced from discovery
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    wells as described in this paragraph (b) shall be repealed from
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    and after July 1, 2003, provided that any such production for
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    which a permit was granted by the board before July 1, 2003, shall
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    be assessed at the reduced rate for an entire period of five (5)
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    years, notwithstanding that the repeal of this provision has
    become effective. Natural gas produced from development wells or
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    replacement wells drilled in connection with discovery wells for
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    which drilling commenced on or after July 1, 1999, shall be
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assessed at a rate of three percent (3%) of the value thereof at

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250 the point of production for a period of three (3) years. The
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- 251 reduced rate of assessment of natural gas produced from
- 252 <u>development wells or replacement wells as described in this</u>
- 253 paragraph (b) shall be repealed from and after January 1, 2003,
- 254 provided that any such production for which drilling commenced
- 255 before January 1, 2003, shall be assessed at the reduced rate for
- 256 an entire period of three (3) years, notwithstanding that the
- 257 repeal of this provision has become effective.
- 258 (6) (a) Gas produced from a development well for which
- 259 drilling commenced on or after April 1, 1994, but before July 1,
- 260 1999, and for which three-dimensional seismic was utilized in
- 261 connection with the drilling of such well, shall be assessed at a
- 262 rate of three percent (3%) of the value of the gas at the point of
- 263 production for a period of five (5) years, provided that the
- 264 average monthly sales price of such gas does not exceed Three
- 265 Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$3.50) per one thousand (1,000) cubic
- 266 feet. The reduced rate of assessment of gas produced from a
- 267 development well as described in this subsection and for which
- 268 three-dimensional seismic was utilized shall be repealed from and
- 269 after July 1, 2003, provided that any such production for which a
- 270 permit was granted by the board before July 1, 2003, shall be
- 271 assessed at the reduced rate for an entire period of five (5)
- 272 years, notwithstanding that the repeal of this provision has
- 273 become effective.
- (b) Gas produced from a development well for which
- 275 drilling commenced on or after July 1, 1999, and for which
- 276 three-dimensional seismic was utilized in connection with the
- 277 <u>drilling of such well, shall be assessed at a rate of three</u>
- 278 percent (3%) of the value of the gas at the point of production
- 279 for a period of five (5) years, provided that the average monthly
- 280 sales price of such gas does not exceed Two Dollars and Fifty
- 281 Cents (\$2.50) per one thousand (1,000) cubic feet. The reduced
- 282 rate of assessment of gas produced from a development well as
- 283 <u>described in this paragraph (b) and for which three-dimensional</u>
- 284 seismic was utilized shall be repealed from and after July 1,

- 285 2003, provided that any such production for which a permit was
- 286 granted by the board before July 1, 2003, shall be assessed at the
- 287 reduced rate for an entire period of five (5) years,
- 288 <u>notwithstanding that the repeal of this provision has become</u>
- 289 <u>effective</u>.
- 290 (7) (a) Natural gas produced before July 1, 1999, from a
- 291 two-year inactive well as defined in Section 27-25-701 shall be
- 292 exempt from the taxes levied under this section for a period of
- 293 three (3) years beginning on the date of first sale of production
- 294 from such well, provided that the average monthly sales price of
- 295 such gas does not exceed Three Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$3.50) per
- 296 one thousand (1,000) cubic feet. The exemption for natural gas
- 297 produced from an inactive well as described in this subsection
- 298 shall be repealed from and after July 1, 2003, provided that any
- 299 such production which began before July 1, 2003, shall be exempt
- 300 for an entire period of three (3) years, notwithstanding that the
- 301 repeal of this provision has become effective.
- 302 (b) Natural gas produced on or after July 1, 1999, from
- 303 <u>a two-year inactive well as defined in Section 27-25-701 shall be</u>
- 304 exempt from the taxes levied under this section for a period of
- 305 three (3) years beginning on the date of first sale of production
- 306 from such well, provided that the average monthly sales price of
- 307 such gas does not exceed Two Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$2.50) per
- 308 one thousand (1,000) cubic feet. The exemption for natural gas
- 309 produced from an inactive well as described in this paragraph (b)
- 310 shall be repealed from and after July 1, 2003, provided that any
- 311 such production which began before July 1, 2003, shall be exempt
- 312 for an entire period of three (3) years, notwithstanding that the
- 313 repeal of this provision has become effective.
- 314 (8) The State Oil and Gas Board shall have the exclusive
- 315 authority to determine the qualification of wells defined in
- 316 paragraphs (n) through (r) of Section 27-15-701.
- 317 [From and after July 1, 2004, this section shall read as
- 318 **follows:**]
- 319 27-25-703. (1) Except as otherwise provided herein, there

- 320 is hereby levied, to be collected hereafter, as provided herein,
- 321 annual privilege taxes upon every person engaging or continuing
- 322 within this state in the business of producing, or severing gas,
- as defined herein, from below the soil or water for sale, 323
- 324 transport, storage, profit or for commercial use. The amount of
- such tax shall be measured by the value of the gas produced and 325
- 326 shall be levied and assessed at a rate of six percent (6%) of the
- 327 value thereof at the point of production, except as otherwise
- provided in subsection (4) of this section. 328
- 329 The tax is hereby levied upon the entire production in
- this state, regardless of the place of sale or to whom sold or by 330
- whom used, or the fact that the delivery may be made to points 331
- outside the state, but not levied upon that gas, including carbon 332
- 333 dioxide, lawfully injected into the earth for cycling,
- 334 repressuring, lifting or enhancing the recovery of oil, nor upon
- gas lawfully vented or flared in connection with the production of 335
- 336 oil, nor upon gas condensed into liquids on which the oil
- 337 severance tax of six percent (6%) is paid; save and except,
- however, if any gas so injected into the earth is sold for such 338
- 339 purposes, then the gas so sold shall not be excluded in computing
- 340 the tax, unless such gas is carbon dioxide which is sold to be
- 341 used and is used in Mississippi in an enhanced oil recovery
- method, in which event there shall be no severance tax levied on 342
- 343 carbon dioxide so sold and used. The tax shall accrue at the time
- 344 the gas is produced or severed from the soil or water, and in its
- natural, unrefined or unmanufactured state. 345
- Natural gas and condensate produced from any wells for 346
- which drilling is commenced after March 15, 1987, and before July 347
- 1, 1990, shall be exempt from the tax levied under this section 348
- for a period of two (2) years beginning on the date of first sale 349
- 350 of production from such wells.
- (4) Any well which begins commercial production of occluded 351
- natural gas from coal seams on or after March 20, 1990, and before 352
- July 1, 1993, shall be taxed at the rate of three and one-half 353
- 354 percent (3-1/2%) of the gross value of the occluded natural gas

- 355 from coal seams at the point of production for a period of five
- 356 (5) years after such well begins production.
- 357 (5) (a) Natural gas produced from discovery wells for which
- 358 drilling or re-entry commenced on or after April 1, 1994, but
- 359 before July 1, 1999, shall be exempt from the tax levied under
- 360 this section for a period of five (5) years beginning on the
- 361 earlier of one (1) year from completion of the well or the date of
- 362 first sale from such well, provided that the average monthly sales
- 363 price of such gas does not exceed Three Dollars and Fifty Cents
- 364 (\$3.50) per one thousand (1,000) cubic feet. The exemption for
- 365 natural gas produced from discovery wells as described in this
- 366 paragraph (a) shall be repealed from and after July 1, 2003,
- 367 provided that any such production for which a permit was granted
- 368 by the board before July 1, 2003, shall be exempt for an entire
- 369 period of five (5) years, notwithstanding that the repeal of this
- 370 provision has become effective. Natural gas produced from
- 371 development wells or replacement wells drilled in connection with
- 372 discovery wells for which drilling commenced on or after January
- 373 1, 1994, shall be assessed at a rate of three percent (3%) of the
- 374 value thereof at the point of production for a period of three (3)
- 375 years. The reduced rate of assessment of natural gas produced
- 376 from development wells or replacement wells as described in this
- 377 paragraph (a) shall be repealed from and after January 1, 2003,
- 378 provided that any such production for which drilling commenced
- 379 before January 1, 2003, shall be assessed at the reduced rate for
- 380 an entire period of three (3) years, notwithstanding that the
- 381 repeal of this provision has become effective.
- 382 (b) Natural gas produced from discovery wells for which
- 383 <u>drilling or re-entry commenced on or after July 1, 1999, shall be</u>
- 384 <u>assessed at a rate of three percent (3%) of the value thereof at</u>
- 385 the point of production for a period of five (5) years beginning
- 386 on the earlier of one (1) year from completion of the well or the
- 387 date of first sale from such well, provided that the average
- 388 monthly sales price of such gas does not exceed Two Dollars and
- 389 Fifty Cents (\$2.50) per one thousand (1,000) cubic feet. The

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390 reduced rate of assessment of natural gas produced from discovery
391 wells as described in this paragraph (b) shall be repealed from
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392 and after July 1, 2003, provided that any such production for

393 which a permit was granted by the board before July 1, 2003, shall

394 be assessed at the reduced rate for an entire period of five (5)

395 years, notwithstanding that the repeal of this provision has

396 become effective. Natural gas produced from development wells or

397 replacement wells drilled in connection with discovery wells for

398 which drilling commenced on or after July 1, 1999, shall be

399 <u>assessed at a rate of three percent (3%) of the value thereof at</u>

400 the point of production for a period of three (3) years. The

401 reduced rate of assessment of natural gas produced from

402 <u>development wells or replacement wells as described in this</u>

403 paragraph (b) shall be repealed from and after January 1, 2003,

404 provided that any such production for which drilling commenced

405 before January 1, 2003, shall be assessed at the reduced rate for

406 an entire period of three (3) years, notwithstanding that the

407 repeal of this provision has become effective.

408 (6) (a) Gas produced from a development well for which

409 drilling commenced on or after April 1, 1994, but before July 1,

410 1999, and for which three-dimensional seismic was utilized in

411 connection with the drilling of such well, shall be assessed at a

412 rate of three percent (3%) of the value of the gas at the point of

413 production for a period of five (5) years, provided that the

414 average monthly sales price of such gas does not exceed Three

415 Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$3.50) per one thousand (1,000) cubic

416 feet. The reduced rate of assessment of gas produced from a

417 development well as described in this subsection and for which

418 three-dimensional seismic was utilized shall be repealed from and

419 after July 1, 2003, provided that any such production for which a

420 permit was granted by the board before July 1, 2003, shall be

421 assessed at the reduced rate for an entire period of five (5)

422 years, notwithstanding that the repeal of this provision has

423 become effective.

(b) Gas produced from a development well for which

- 425 <u>drilling commenced on or after July 1, 1999</u>, and for which
- 426 three-dimensional seismic was utilized in connection with the
- 427 <u>drilling of such well, shall be assessed at a rate of three</u>
- 428 percent (3%) of the value of the gas at the point of production
- 429 for a period of five (5) years, provided that the average monthly
- 430 sales price of such gas does not exceed Two Dollars and Fifty
- 431 Cents (\$2.50) per one thousand (1,000) cubic feet. The reduced
- 432 rate of assessment of gas produced from a development well as
- 433 <u>described in this paragraph (b) and for which three-dimensional</u>
- 434 seismic was utilized shall be repealed from and after July 1,
- 435 2003, provided that any such production for which a permit was
- 436 granted by the board before July 1, 2003, shall be assessed at the
- 437 reduced rate for an entire period of five (5) years,
- 438 <u>notwithstanding that the repeal of this provision has become</u>
- 439 <u>effective</u>.
- 440 (7) (a) Natural gas produced before July 1, 1999, from a
- 441 two-year inactive well as defined in Section 27-25-701 shall be
- 442 exempt from the taxes levied under this section for a period of
- 443 three (3) years beginning on the date of first sale of production
- 444 from such well, provided that the average monthly sales price of
- 445 such gas does not exceed Three Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$3.50) per
- 446 one thousand (1,000) cubic feet. The exemption for natural gas
- 447 produced from an inactive well as described in this subsection
- 448 shall be repealed from and after July 1, 2003, provided that any
- 449 such production which began before July 1, 2003, shall be exempt
- 450 for an entire period of three (3) years, notwithstanding that the
- 451 repeal of this provision has become effective.
- (b) Natural gas produced on or after July 1, 1999, from
- 453 <u>a two-year inactive well as defined in Section 27-25-701 shall be</u>
- 454 exempt from the taxes levied under this section for a period of
- 455 three (3) years beginning on the date of first sale of production
- 456 from such well, provided that the average monthly sales price of
- 457 such gas does not exceed Two Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$2.50) per
- 458 one thousand (1,000) cubic feet. The exemption for natural gas
- 459 produced from an inactive well as described in this paragraph (b)

- 460 shall be repealed from and after July 1, 2003, provided that any
- 461 <u>such production which began before July 1, 2003, shall be exempt</u>
- 462 for an entire period of three (3) years, notwithstanding that the
- 463 repeal of this provision has become effective.
- 464 (8) The State Oil and Gas Board shall have the exclusive
- 465 authority to determine the qualification of wells defined in
- 466 paragraphs (n) through (r) of Section 27-15-701.

REPLACEMENT WELLS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

- 467 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
- 468 and after its passage.

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Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-25-503, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXTEND THE EXEMPTION FROM OIL SEVERANCE TAX ON CERTAIN PRODUCTION FROM TWO-YEAR INACTIVE WELLS; TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN PRODUCTION FROM DISCOVERY WELLS SHALL BE TAXED AT A REDUCED RATE; TO EXTEND THE REDUCED RATE OF OIL SEVERANCE TAX ON CERTAIN PRODUCTION FROM DEVELOPMENT WELLS AND REPLACEMENT WELLS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE OWNER OF CERTAIN MARGINAL WELLS MAY RECEIVE A REFUND OF A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF THE SEVERANCE TAXES PAID ON OIL FROM SUCH WELL UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; TO AMEND SECTION 27-25-703, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO EXTEND THE EXEMPTION FROM GAS SEVERANCE TAX ON CERTAIN PRODUCTION FROM TWO-YEAR INACTIVE WELLS; TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN PRODUCTION FROM DISCOVERY WELLS SHALL BE TAXED AT A REDUCED RATE; TO EXTEND THE REDUCED RATE OF GAS SEVERANCE TAX ON CERTAIN PRODUCTION FROM DEVELOPMENT WELLS AND

CONFEREES FOR THE SENATE:

CONFEREES FOR THE HOUSE:

X
Hob Bryan
Bobby Moak

X
Alice Harden
Ray Rogers

X
Gray Tollison
James C. Simpson, Jr.