

By: Robertson, Scoper, Minor, To: Rules
Nunnelee, Moffatt

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 9
(As Adopted by Senate)

1 A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE PLANS BY THE MINERAL
2 MANAGEMENT SERVICE (MMS) TO PROCEED WITH OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF
3 (OCS) LEASE SALE 181 FOR THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO WHICH IS
4 SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 5, 2001.

5 WHEREAS, a strong domestic oil and natural gas industry is
6 vitally important to the United States' economy and national
7 defense; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States' domestic oil and gas production
9 has decreased at the same time that domestic consumption of oil
10 has increased by over 14%; and

11 WHEREAS, at the current time, the United States imports
12 approximately 55% of the oil we need for America's economy while
13 the demand for refined petroleum products is projected to increase
14 by over 35% and the demand for natural gas is projected to
15 increase by at least 45% percent over the next two decades; and

16 WHEREAS, much of the nation's greatest potential for future
17 domestic production lies in the areas which are currently
18 off-limits to oil and natural gas development; and

19 WHEREAS, two eastern Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf
20 (OCS) areas, specifically an area known as the Destin Dome and
21 Federal Lease Sale 181 Area has great potential to hold large
22 natural gas reserves; and

23 WHEREAS, for the first time since 1988, the federal Mineral
24 Management Service (MMS) has scheduled on December 5, 2001, an OCS
25 lease sale for the Eastern Gulf of Mexico; and

26 WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry has an exemplary record in
27 regard to protecting the environment while operating in the Gulf

28 of Mexico, and oil and gas production from this area of the Gulf
29 would help offset current domestic energy production declines and
30 assist the nation; and

31 WHEREAS, Mississippi jobs, income taxes, and other positive
32 economic benefits have been created by Gulf of Mexico development,
33 including exploration and drilling, platform fabrication and
34 installation, pipeline contracting and construction, onshore gas
35 treatment plant construction, operation, and maintenance, and
36 goods, services, and supplies purchased; and

37 WHEREAS, the economic activity which results from oil and
38 natural gas development in the Gulf of Mexico would continue to
39 benefit Mississippi and all the states which border the Gulf of
40 Mexico:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
42 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby express support for the plans by
43 the Mineral Management Service (MMS) to proceed with Outer
44 Continental Shelf (OCS) Lease Sale 181 for the Eastern Gulf of
45 Mexico which is scheduled for December 5, 2001.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
47 forwarded to each member of the Mississippi Congressional
48 Delegation and to the Director of the Mineral Management Service.