

By: Representatives Bowles, Eakes

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 84

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

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

8 WHEREAS, the domestic oil and gas production of the United  
9 States has decreased at the same time that domestic consumption of  
10 oil 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 off  
18 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, have 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 the Gulf of Mexico  
33 development, including exploration and drilling, platform  
34 fabrication and installation, pipeline contracting and  
35 construction, onshore gas treatment plant construction, operation,  
36 and maintenance, and 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 HOUSE OF  
42 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
43 THEREIN, That we do hereby express support for the plans by the  
44 Mineral Management Service (MMS) to proceed with Outer Continental  
45 Shelf (OCS) Lease Sale 181 for the Eastern Gulf of Mexico which is  
46 scheduled for December 5, 2001.

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