

By: Representatives Zuber, Bentz,
Broomfield, Guice, Janus, Patterson,
Peranich, Read, Simpson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 57

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSIONAL
2 DELEGATION AND THE STAFF OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE
3 RESOURCES COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM FOR
4 THEIR EFFORTS IN SECURING THE DESIGNATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI GULF
5 COAST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

6 WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas are places where natural,
7 cultural, historic and scenic resources combine to form a
8 cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns
9 of human activity shaped by geography; and

10 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Gulf Coast has been recognized as
11 being a culturally, historically and environmentally distinctive
12 region; and

13 WHEREAS, the heritage of areas such as the Mississippi Gulf
14 Coast are threatened by high rates of development and natural
15 disasters such as Hurricane Katrina; and

16 WHEREAS, the designation as a National Heritage Area helps
17 make communities more livable and economically viable by
18 strengthening the sense of heritage identity, conserving the
19 area's heritage resources, and developing, promoting and marketing
20 the National Heritage Area; and

21 WHEREAS, the staff of the Mississippi Department of Marine
22 Resources Comprehensive Resource Management Planning Program began
23 efforts to have the southern six counties of the State of
24 Mississippi designated as a national heritage area in 2001 to help
25 improve the connectivity of the heritage of the area by providing
26 proponents, essential data and information to secure the enabling
27 legislation for the heritage area; and

28 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area
29 Act passed in the 109th Congress in 2004 and was signed into law
30 by President George Bush on December 8, 2004 (P.L.108-447),
31 designating the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area
32 because of the dedicated efforts of the Mississippi Congressional
33 Delegation which includes: Senator Trent Lott, Senator Thad
34 Cochran, Congressman Gene Taylor, Congressman Charles Pickering,
35 Congressman Bennie Thompson and Congressman Roger Wicker; and

36 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area is
37 the 24th of only 26 designated heritage areas in the country; and

38 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area
39 consists of the southern six counties of the State of Mississippi,
40 those being Pearl River County, Stone County, George County,
41 Hancock County, Harrison County, and Jackson County, all of which
42 share a rich history of related natural forest, waterway and
43 marine resources, important and interesting archaeological sites
44 and enjoyable scenic resources; and

45 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area
46 Act designates the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources as
47 the coordinating entity for the heritage area and the staff of the
48 Comprehensive Resource Management Planning Program manages the
49 area; and

50 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is rich with other areas
51 worthy of the National Heritage Area designation and the areas are
52 in need of the educational, conservation and promotional benefits
53 of the heritage area program; and

54 WHEREAS, the staff of the Mississippi Department of Marine
55 Resources Comprehensive Resource Management Planning Program has
56 demonstrated outstanding success in developing the Mississippi
57 Gulf Coast National Heritage Area and has demonstrated the
58 willingness and ability to help develop heritage areas in several
59 other areas in the state; and

60 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
61 recognize and commend the great efforts of the staff of our
62 agencies such as the staff of the Mississippi Department of Marine
63 Resources Comprehensive Resource Management Planning Program for
64 guiding the development of other heritage area initiatives in the
65 state and to encourage the staff to continue these efforts:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
67 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
68 recognize and commend the Mississippi Congressional Delegation and
69 the staff of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
70 Comprehensive Resource Management Planning Program for their
71 efforts in securing the designation of the Mississippi Gulf Coast
72 National Heritage Area.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
74 furnished to the members of the Mississippi Congressional
75 Delegation, members of the staff of the Mississippi Department of
76 Marine Resources Comprehensive Resource Management Planning
77 Program and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.