

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Hewes, Dawkins,  
Cuevas, Robertson, Moffatt, Lee (47th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 593

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE NEED FOR A MISSISSIPPI  
2 SEAFOOD INDUSTRIAL PARK AND WORKING WATERFRONT.

3 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Seafood Processing  
4 Industry and the jobs that it supported was dealt a crushing blow  
5 on August 29th by Hurricane Katrina, crippling this industry that  
6 prior to the hurricane supported over 6,500 jobs and 47 seafood  
7 processing plants; and

8 WHEREAS, other commercial land developments on the  
9 Mississippi Gulf Coast have driven the price of waterfront land so  
10 high that in many cases it is not feasible to continue to use the  
11 land for the seafood industry; and

12 WHEREAS, it is necessary that some aspects of commercial  
13 seafood operations remain on the waterfront to support water  
14 dependent boat related activities such as docking, supplying fuel  
15 and ice and maintenance and repairs; and

16 WHEREAS, the seafood industry is extremely valuable with an  
17 economic impact to Mississippi that exceeds \$900 Million per year;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, an inland seafood park would help to keep the  
20 seafood industry operational after future hurricanes by being  
21 built on higher land which is removed from the area that is  
22 susceptible to the highest winds and tidal storm surges; and

23 WHEREAS, wastewater from seafood processing plants at an  
24 inland seafood park could be sent to a treatment facility,  
25 reducing the current discharge rate into Mississippi's estuaries,  
26 resulting in improved water quality in the bays, rivers and the  
27 Mississippi Sound; and

28           WHEREAS, affordable land at an inland seafood park could  
29 provide additional processing capacity that may not be feasible at  
30 expensive waterfront locations and which could enhance  
31 Mississippi's processing capacity, stimulate economic development  
32 and create new jobs; and

33           WHEREAS, Mississippi seafood is important to our culture and  
34 the Mississippi Gulf Coast has a rich seafood heritage dating back  
35 to the turn of the century and Biloxi was once known as the  
36 Seafood Capital of the World; and

37           WHEREAS, the Governor's Commission Report on Recovery,  
38 Rebuilding and Renewal recommends creation of both the inland  
39 seafood industrial park, and the working waterfront concept:

40           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
41 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
42 the Mississippi Legislature supports the development of a seafood  
43 industrial park which will create numerous opportunities to  
44 increase business efficiency by economies of scale through a  
45 "private-public cooperative" where water, wastewater processing,  
46 cold storage, value-added operations and other shared services  
47 could accommodate a full range of activities and facilities needed  
48 to rebuild this sector of the local economy.

49           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mississippi Legislature  
50 supports passage of the Working Waterfront Preservation Act being  
51 considered by the United States Congress (S. 1723) which allows  
52 for a project to acquire real property or an interest in real  
53 property located in a coastal state for the purpose of providing  
54 access to persons engaged in the commercial fishing industry or  
55 the aquaculture industry to coastal waters in working waterfront  
56 areas.

57           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mississippi Legislature  
58 supports the acquisition of land by a cooperative of private and  
59 public entities to develop inland seafood industrial parks and

60 working waterfronts that sets aside land for the water dependent  
61 needs of the seafood industry.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to  
63 the following: President George W. Bush; Senator Thad Cochran;  
64 Senator Trent Lott; Representative Gene Taylor; Representative  
65 Chip Pickering; Representative Bennie Thompson; Representative  
66 Roger Wicker; Governor Haley Barbour; Mississippi Commission on  
67 Marine Resources: Chairman Dr. Vernon Asper and Vice Chair Mikel  
68 Gusa; Commissioners Richard Gollott, Shelby Drummond and Oliver  
69 Sahuque; Mississippi Department of Marine Resources: Executive  
70 Director Dr. William Walker, Fisheries Director William Corky  
71 Perret; and Fisheries Staff Officer Dale A. Diaz; and be made  
72 available to members of the Capitol Press Corps.