

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

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 613

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE  
2 MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA AND COMMENDING  
3 CONGRESS AND THE EFFORTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE  
4 RESOURCES IN SECURING ITS DESIGNATION AND GUIDING ITS DEVELOPMENT.

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, the designation as a National Heritage Area helps  
16 make communities more livable and economically viable through  
17 Strengthening the Sense of Heritage Identity, Conserving the  
18 Area's Heritage Resources and Developing, Promoting, and Marketing  
19 the National Heritage Area; and

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

27 WHEREAS, through the dedicated efforts of the Mississippi  
28 congressional delegation, Senator Trent Lott, Senator Thad

29 Cochran, Congressman Gene Taylor, Congressman Charles Pickering,  
30 Congressman Bennie Thompson and Congressman Roger Wicker, the  
31 Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area Act passed in the  
32 109th Congress in 2004 and was signed into law by President George  
33 Bush on December 8, 2004 (P.L. 108-447), designating the  
34 Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area; and

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

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

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

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

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

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
60 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
61 we recognize and commend Mississippi's congressional delegation

62 and the staff of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources'  
63 Comprehensive Resource Management Planning Program for their  
64 efforts in securing the designation of the Mississippi Gulf Coast  
65 National Heritage Area.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we recognize and commend the  
67 staff of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources'  
68 Comprehensive Resource Management Planning Program for guiding the  
69 development of other heritage area initiatives in the state, and  
70 encourage the staff to continue its efforts.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
72 transmitted to the members of Mississippi's congressional  
73 delegation and to the members of the staff of the Mississippi  
74 Department of Marine Resource, and be made available to Capitol  
75 Press Corps.