

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

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO.      9

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.