

1 [Opposing HR 4761 and HR 4318, relating to offshore oil drilling.]

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3 **Resolution urging the federal government to extend the offshore oil and gas leasing**  
4 **moratorium and opposing federal efforts to expand offshore oil drilling, including HR**  
5 **4761 and HR 4318.**

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7 WHEREAS, A bipartisan consensus in Congress has protected the California coastline  
8 from expanded offshore drilling for the past 25 years, renewing this protection each year in the  
9 form of a legislative moratorium contained in the appropriations bill for the United States  
10 Department of the Interior; and

11 WHEREAS, This offshore leasing moratorium also protects the coastline of Oregon  
12 and Washington, the entire United States eastern seaboard, and the southwest coast of  
13 Florida; and,

14 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush's current White House budget for fiscal year  
15 2007, released in January 2006, supports a continuation of this congressional offshore leasing  
16 moratorium; and,

17 WHEREAS, A complementary measure, put in place by Executive action in 1991 by  
18 former President George H.W. Bush protects the same areas through enactment of the  
19 "Presidential Offshore Leasing Deferrals," which President William J. Clinton subsequently  
20 extended until 2012 to ensure that protected coastal areas would not be threatened by  
21 offshore drilling impacts; and

22 WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress has been discussing measures that would open our  
23 coast and the whole Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to increased oil and gas drilling, including  
24 a recently rejected measure in the Interior Department appropriations bill that would lift the  
25 25 year federal moratorium on gas drilling; and

1           WHEREAS, Other draft bills, including HR 4761, known as the Domestic Energy  
2 Production Through Offshore Exploration and Equitable Treatment of State Holdings Act of  
3 2006, and HR 4318, Peterson, known as the Outer Continental Shelf Natural Gas Relief  
4 Act, would, if adopted, immediately void the entire bipartisan congressional offshore leasing  
5 moratorium and the longstanding presidential offshore drilling deferrals, while undermining  
6 states' rights by pressuring coastal jurisdictions to facilitate new federal offshore drilling by  
7 making a state's share of the federal revenues from these activities contingent on state  
8 approval of new and expanded federal offshore leasing; and

9           WHEREAS, Following the infamous 1969 oil spill that resulted in the spillage of  
10 3,200,000 gallons of crude oil, fouling Santa Barbara County's ocean beaches, Californians  
11 became even more wary about offshore oil drilling, continuing with the passage of additional  
12 oil and gas leasing prohibitions in 1969, 1970, and 1971; and

13           WHEREAS, In 1994, the California Coastal Sanctuary Act of 1994 (Chapter 3.4  
14 (commencing with Section 6240) of Part 1 of Division 6 of the Public Resources Code),  
15 became law, creating a comprehensive statewide coastal sanctuary that prohibits future oil  
16 and gas leasing in state waters, from Mexico to the Oregon border, in perpetuity, and adding  
17 leases to the sanctuary as they are quitclaimed to the state; and

18           WHEREAS, In addition, the protection of California's spectacular 1,100 mile coastline  
19 is of the utmost importance to a number of our state's coastal and ocean dependent  
20 industries, including tourism and commercial fishing, which contributed over fifty billion dollars  
21 (\$50,000,000,000) to California's economy in 1999; and

22           WHEREAS, California's ocean waters are also home to four important sanctuaries, the  
23 Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine  
24 Sanctuary, the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and the Channel Islands National  
25 Marine Sanctuary that are, by definition, areas of special conservation, recreational,

1 ecological, historical, cultural, archaeological, scientific, educational, and esthetic qualities;  
2 and are particularly sensitive to the impacts of oil development; and

3 WHEREAS, Additional offshore oil leasing and production would degrade the quality of  
4 our air and water, and adversely impact our marine resources, including severe impacts from  
5 seismic surveys on marine mammals, that could involve threatened and endangered species,  
6 including blue and humpback whales; and

7 WHEREAS, Offshore oil development poses a serious risk of oil spills, especially with  
8 the introduction of deepwater drilling technologies and floating oil storage and processing  
9 vessels, thereby threatening marine ecosystems, and could have devastating effects on the  
10 southern sea otter, listed as a threatened species since 1997, as well as onshore wildlife,  
11 birds, and their habitats in the ocean, in estuaries, and on beaches; and

12 WHEREAS, Offshore oil development also leads to the industrialization of the  
13 shoreline, creating land use conflicts, visually degrading coastal areas, and posing potentially  
14 life threatening public safety risks; and

15 WHEREAS, Copies of the aforementioned legislation are on file with the Clerk of the  
16 Board of Supervisors in File No. , which is hereby declared to be a part of this resolution as  
17 if set forth fully herein; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco requests that Congress  
19 continue the federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium for fiscal year 2007 and beyond;  
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco opposes the damaging  
22 coastal provisions of proposed federal energy policies, including, but not limited to, the  
23 adoption of HR 4761, known as the Domestic Energy Production Through Offshore  
24 Exploration and Equitable Treatment of State Holdings Act of 2006, and HR 4318, known as  
25 the Outer Continental Shelf Natural Gas Relief Act, or any other coastal provisions that

1 weaken California's legitimate role in energy siting decisions due to the threat posed by such  
2 legislation to the economic integrity of California's coastal dependent tourism and fishing  
3 economies, and any consolidation of centralized offshore authority with the federal  
4 government; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors transmit copies of  
6 this resolution to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the  
7 United States representing San Francisco.

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