

The House Committee on Rules offers the following substitute to HR 48:

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting Georgia's coastal tourism and fisheries and opposing seismic testing and oil  
2 drilling activities off of Georgia's coast; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's fishing and tourism industries and the state's economy are dependent  
4 on healthy natural environments and safe ocean systems along the Georgia coast; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia's coast supports a significant fishing and tourism industry, which  
6 benefits the state economy in terms of 21,000 jobs and over \$1.1 billion of Georgia's gross  
7 domestic product; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia's coast contains 368,000 acres of saltmarsh that provide essential  
9 nursery grounds for fish, shellfish, crab, and other marine life important to the vitality of  
10 local fisheries; and

11 WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore  
12 oil pose the risk of a spill that could adversely affect Georgia's fishing and coastal tourism  
13 industries for decades; and

14 WHEREAS, offshore oil drilling requires onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or  
15 refineries, which may compromise the character of our coastal landscapes and our  
16 communities; and

17 WHEREAS, scientific studies have found seismic testing to harm marine fisheries and  
18 marine mammals that are important to Georgia's coastal communities and economies; and

19 WHEREAS, seismic testing and offshore oil drilling risk the survival of the 400 remaining  
20 North Atlantic right whales, Georgia's state marine mammal, that travel to our coast to give  
21 birth and are considered the most critically endangered whale species in the world; and

22 WHEREAS, seismic testing and offshore oil drilling activities may interfere with critical  
23 military preparedness, training, and testing activities taking place off the coast of Georgia  
24 and at King's Bay Naval Submarine Base and the Naval Undersea Warfare Training Range,  
25 which is under construction; and

26 WHEREAS, more than 200 towns and cities along the Atlantic Coast have passed official  
27 resolutions against Atlantic oil drilling and seismic testing, including Savannah, Tybee  
28 Island, Brunswick, St. Marys, Kingsland, Hinesville, Porterdale, Richmond Hill,  
29 Thunderbolt, and Midway, as well as the City of Atlanta; and

30 WHEREAS, over 200 businesses in Georgia have come out publicly against offshore oil  
31 drilling and seismic testing due to the adverse economic and environmental impacts; and

32 WHEREAS, a healthy tourism industry and economy are vital to protect the public health,  
33 safety, and welfare of Georgia's citizens.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body express their support for Georgia's coastal tourism and fisheries  
36 and voice their opposition to oil exploration and drilling activities, including seismic testing,  
37 off of the Georgia coast.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
39 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
40 public and the press.