

House Resolution 48

By: Representatives Gilliard of the 162nd, Hogan of the 179th, Hitchens of the 161st, Stephens of the 164th, and Petrea of the 166th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Supporting Georgia's coastal tourism and fisheries and opposing seismic testing and oil and gas 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 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 benefits the state economy in terms of 21,000 jobs and over \$1.1 billion of Georgia's gross domestic product (GDP); and
- 8 WHEREAS, Georgia's coast contains 368,000 acres of saltmarsh that provide essential nursery grounds for fish, shellfish, crab, and other marine life important to the vitality of local fisheries; and
- 11 WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas pose a risk of a spill that could adversely affect Georgia's fishing and coastal tourism industries for decades; and
- 14 WHEREAS, offshore drilling requires onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which may compromise the character of our coastal landscapes and our communities; and
- 16 WHEREAS, scientific studies have found seismic testing to harm marine fisheries and marine mammals that are important to Georgia's coastal communities and economies; and
- 18 WHEREAS, seismic testing and offshore drilling risk the survival of the 400 remaining North Atlantic right whales, Georgia's state marine mammal that travels to our coast to give birth and is considered the most critically endangered whale species in the world; and

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

25 WHEREAS, more than 140 of Georgia's towns and cities along the Atlantic Coast have
26 passed official resolutions against Atlantic drilling and seismic testing, including Savannah,
27 Tybee Island, Brunswick, St. Marys, Kingsland, Hinesville, and Porterdale; and

28 WHEREAS, 39 businesses in Georgia have come out publicly against offshore drilling and
29 seismic testing due to the adverse economic and environmental impacts; and

30 WHEREAS, a healthy tourism industry and economy are vital to protect the public health,
31 safety, and welfare of Georgia citizens.

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

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