

RESOLUTION NO. 71 OF 2021

BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESUMING FEDERAL OFFSHORE LEASING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

WHEREAS, the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program, since its authorization by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (PCSLA), has provided significant energy to help fuel the great economy of America; and

WHEREAS, the United States of American Offshore Oil and Gas Program, has been very effective in helping America achieve energy security and strengthening our National Security; and

WHEREAS, the offshore industry and government have collaborated with groups such as the Coastal Conservation Association to create innovative ways to find beneficial cooperation such as the Rigs-to-Reef program, which benefits the recreational fishing community by repurposing obsolete structures of which nearly 600 reefed platforms in the United States Gulf of Mexico are home to almost seven million fish and other marine species, enriching marine life; and

WHEREAS, since its inception the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program is responsible for helping to create hundreds of thousands of jobs with a significant economic impact and has generated hundreds of billions in royalty revenue for the United States Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress in 2020 permanently funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million per year with wide bi-partisan support. Relying solely on earnings from federal offshore oil and gas leasing, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has funded more than \$4 billion worth of projects since its inception in 1965 for purposes of conservation, recreation, and protection of vital national resources; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, more than \$1 billion, funded exclusively by federal offshore lease revenues, has been disbursed to four Gulf energy-producing states through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act to support coastal conservation and restoration projects; hurricane protection programs; and activities to implement marine coastal or conservation management plans; and

WHEREAS, in the most recent conservation legislation, the Great American Outdoors Act, the United States Congress set aside up to \$1.9 billion a year from federal offshore lease revenues for the next five years to repair facilities and infrastructure in our nation parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and American Indian Schools; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program has been managed in the such a way that it is recognized as an environmentally advantaged energy producer with approximately half (53%) of the carbon intensity per barrel of other producing regions worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America Offshore Energy represents a significant opportunity to help improve the health of our planet due to its low carbon intensity; and

WHEREAS, President Biden and Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland have caused regularly scheduled lease sales for offshore resources, previously authorized by administrations of both political parties, to be canceled resulting in great uncertainty for the economy, the energy, and the environment of America; and

WHEREAS, Terry A. Doughty of the United States District Court recently decided in a suit filed by the States of Louisiana, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia that the Executive Brank does not have the legal right to stop leasing Federal territory for Oil and Gas production without approval from Congress; and

WHEREAS, the future production of these oil and gas resources and consequently the funding of the conservation, recreation, restoration, and protection and further consequently the denial of environmentally advantaged, low carbon intensity barrels of production as a

substitution for higher carbon intensity barrels of production from foreign sources; all will be negatively impacted by the continued cancellation of offshore lease sales.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Caddo Parish Commission: petitions President Biden and Secretary Haaland to immediately schedule Lease Sales for the Gulf of Mexico, a historic energy producing province, to assist in producing a larger portfolio of natural gas which can serve the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) worldwide market, all in an effort to restore confidence, generate economic activity, enhance environmental stewardship, create American jobs, and strengthen national and energy security, generate economic activity, enhance environmental stewardship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to President Biden, Secretary Haaland, members of the United States Congress, the City and Parish governing authorities within the State of Louisiana, the Louisiana Police Jury Association, the Louisiana Municipal Association, and the National Association of Counties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any provision or item of this resolution or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this resolution are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved as to legal form:

Parish Attorney

Date