

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 131

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the ocean.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 1997

Mr. SAXTON (for himself and Mr. ABERCROMBIE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the ocean.

Whereas the ocean comprises nearly three quarters of the surface of the Earth;

Whereas the ocean contains diverse species of fish and other living organisms which form the largest ecosystem on Earth;

Whereas these living marine resources provide important food resources to the United States and the world, and unsustainable use of these resources has unacceptable economic, environmental, and cultural consequences;

Whereas the ocean and sea floor contain vast energy and mineral resources which are critical to the economy of the United States and the world;

Whereas the ocean largely controls global weather and climate, and is the ultimate source of all water resources;

Whereas the vast majority of the deep ocean is unexplored and unknown, and the ocean is truly the last frontier on Earth for science and civilization;

Whereas the ocean is the common means of transportation between coastal nations and carries the majority of the United States foreign trade;

Whereas any nation's use or misuse of ocean resources has effects far beyond that nation's borders; and

Whereas the United Nations has declared 1998 to be the International Year of the Ocean, and in order to observe such celebration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other Federal agencies, in cooperation with organizations concerned with ocean science and marine resources, have resolved to promote exploration, utilization, conservation, and public awareness of the ocean: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the ocean is of paramount importance to
4 the economic future, environmental quality, and na-
5 tional security of the United States;

6 (2) the United States has a responsibility to ex-
7 ercise and promote comprehensive stewardship of the
8 ocean and the living marine resources it contains;
9 and

10 (3) the agencies of the United States Govern-
11 ment, and all other public and private organizations,
12 are encouraged to strive toward a better understand-

1 ing of the ocean, communicate this understanding to
2 the people of the United States, and thereby pro-
3 mote the exploration of the ocean, the sustainable
4 use of ocean resources, and the conservation of these
5 resources for future generations.

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