

# STATE OF MISSISSIPPI



## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 66

### A RESOLUTION URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW WATER FROM THE GULF OF MEXICO FOR THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE.

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the State of Mississippi is charged with protecting citizens, land and natural resources of the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has proposed the creation of a Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facility in the salt domes near Richton, Perry County, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy has proposed withdrawing fresh water from the Pascagoula River to be used to excavate (solution mine) the Richton salt domes and dispose of high salinity water through a 65-mile-long discharge pipeline with the terminus end seven miles south of Horn Island; and

WHEREAS, the Pascagoula River is a river about 80 miles long in southeastern Mississippi and drains an area of about 8,800 square miles and flows into the Mississippi Sound of the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Pascagoula River is significant as the only unaffected, undammed river flowing into the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Pascagoula River is home to many threatened and endangered species including the *Elanoides forficatus* American Swallow-Tailed Kite, the *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* Bald Eagle, the *Circus cyaneus* Northern Harrier, the *Falco peregrinus* Peregrine Falcon, the *Sterna nilotica* Gull-Billed Tern, the *Acipenser oxyrinchus* Gulf Sturgeon, the *Malaclemys terrapin* Diamondback Terrapin, the *Pseudemys* Mississippi Redbelly Turtle, the *Gopherus polyphemus* Gopher Tortoise, the *Succinea luteola* Spanish Ambersnail, the *Polygyra septemvolva* Florida Flatcoil, the *Eustoma exaltatum* Tall Prairie-Gentain, the *Peltandra sagittifolia* White Arum; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the State of Mississippi is concerned that withdrawal of fresh water from the Pascagoula River and other freshwater sources will have a negative impact on the citizens and natural resources of the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, SPR storage sites have been created using waters withdrawn directly from the Gulf of Mexico without negative impacts to freshwater resources or the resources of the Gulf of Mexico:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to:

- (1) Construct the Richton salt dome storage facility without withdrawing fresh water from the Pascagoula River, otherwise impacting the Pascagoula River system, or any other freshwater source;
- (2) Withdraw waters directly from the Gulf of Mexico for solution mining of the Richton salt dome;  
and
- (3) Dispose of high salinity waters used in solution mining salt domes through a pipeline to the Gulf of Mexico and a saltwater diffuser at a depth and distance sufficient to avoid impacts to the Gulf of Mexico and to the natural resources of the State of Mississippi.