

## POLICY POSITION

### LEGISLATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM

#### BACKGROUND

In 1988, the United States Environmental Protection Agency Regions IV and VI initiated the Gulf of Mexico Program to develop a comprehensive strategy to protect and enhance the Gulf's environmental quality. The program is managed by three committees: a Policy Review Board, a Technical Steering Committee, and a Citizens Advisory Committee. The Policy Review Board is comprised of twenty senior level representatives of state and federal agencies. The program has operated for the last three years without any input from a significant group of environmental policy-makers, state legislators.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Southern Legislative Conference requests the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide for meaningful legislative input into the development of policy and/or action plans by the legislative branch of government. One suggestion would be to establish positions on the Policy Review Board for appointments from state legislatures of the five states involved in the program effort.

Adopted by the Southern Legislative Conference, August 11, 1992, Miami Beach, Florida.

Sponsored by: Representative Bruce Hanson, Mississippi

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