

First, Congress should open the way for environmentally responsible offshore exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf. Experts believe that these areas could eventually produce nearly 10 years worth of America's current annual oil production. This exploration is now banned by a provision included in the annual interior appropriations bill. When Congress returns, they should remove this restriction so we can get these vast oil resources from the ocean floor to your gas tank.

Second, Congress should expand access to oil shale, a resource right here in America that could produce the equivalent of more than a century's worth of imports at current levels. Last year, however, Democratic leaders pushed through legislation blocking oil shale leasing on Federal lands. They should lift that ban as soon as they return.

Third, Congress should extend renewable power tax credits to spur the development of alternative sources of energy like wind and solar. They should make these credits long-term and expand them to cover all forms of low-emission power generation, including nuclear power. Increasing production of low-carbon electricity will help us reduce our addiction to oil by allowing us

to power a new generation of plug-in hybrid and hydrogen-powered vehicles.

There is bipartisan support in Congress for all three of these measures. So instead of spending the next month deadlocked on matters where Republicans and Democrats disagree, Members of Congress should come together to pass legislation in these areas where there is agreement.

This Congress has been one of the most unproductive on record. They've failed to address the challenge of high gas prices. Members still have time to take action on this vital priority for the American people. They need to send me a bill next month that I can sign, so we can bring relief to drivers, small-business owners, farmers and ranchers, and every American affected by high prices at the pump.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7 a.m. on August 22 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 23. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 22, but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Situation in Georgia *August 25, 2008*

I am deeply concerned by today's appeal to President Medvedev by Russia's Federation Council and Duma, the upper and lower houses of Russia's parliament, to recognize the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent countries. I call on Russia's leadership to meet its commitments and not recognize these separatist regions.

Georgia's territorial integrity and borders must command the same respect as every other nation's, including Russia's. Russia

agreed, when President Medvedev signed the French-brokered cease-fire agreement, to the opening of international discussions on security and stability modalities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This represents an internationally endorsed approach to these issues, which recognition would undercut. Recognition would also be inconsistent with unanimously approved United Nations Security resolutions that Russia has consistently voted for in the past.

The United States will continue to stand with the people of Georgia and their democracy and to support its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

NOTE: The statement referred to President Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russia.

Memorandum on Potential Marine Conservation Management Areas August 25, 2008

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality

Subject: Potential Marine Conservation Management Areas

The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality has advised me there are objects of historic and scientific interest in areas under the jurisdiction of the United States that may be appropriate for recognition, protection, or improved conservation and management under available authorities including by executive order or action under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*), National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431, *et seq.*), or the Antiquities Act (16 U.S.C. 431). These objects include:

In the central Pacific, coral reefs, pinnacles, sea mounts, islands and surrounding waters of Johnston Atoll, Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands, Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, Wake Island, and Rose Atoll that are isolated from population centers, mostly uninhabited, and support endemic, depleted, migratory, endangered and threatened species of fish, giant clams, crabs, marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds, migratory shorebirds and corals that are rapidly vanishing elsewhere in the world. The reefs in these areas support unique localized upwelling-based productivity, and two of the

atolls are repositories of the larvae of many marine species transported from the biodiversity-rich western Pacific.

In the western Pacific Ocean, the marine waters around the northern islands of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, including the Mariana Trench, that offer an exceptional and diverse collection of marine life and habitat.

Please provide to me your assessment, with relevant supporting information, including the views of the territorial and local governments and other interested parties, of the advisability of providing additional recognition, protection or improved conservation and management for objects of historic or scientific interest at these islands, coral reefs, geologic features and surrounding marine waters.

Because Johnston Atoll and Wake Island have supported active military bases, and the other areas in the Pacific include areas of strategic importance to the United States, any measures your assessment recommends should not limit the Department of Defense from carrying out the mission of the various branches of the military stationed or operating within the Pacific and shall be consistent with freedom of navigation and international law. Please also consider cultural, environmental, economic, and multiple use implications of any measures you recommend, including the extent to which they are compatible, if applicable, with sustaining access to: (1) recreational and commercial fishing; (2) energy and