

Huffman #2

**AMENDMENT OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVE HUFFMAN TO  
THE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 6008**

On page 1, after line 4, insert:

Sec. 2. FINDINGS.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds that—

- (1) Rice's whale is a critically endangered species at risk of extinction if significant conservation measures and protections are not implemented;
- (2) only 51 individual Rice's whales are estimated to exist;
- (3) the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill killed or adversely impacted a significant portion of the Rice's whale population, resulting in a twenty-two percent population decline;
- (3) oil and gas, as well as geological and geophysical, activities in the Gulf of Mexico continue to pose a significant threat to the existence of Rice's whale;
- (4) oil and gas, as well as geological and geophysical activities must be conducted responsibly and in a way that does not increase the risk of extinction to Rice's whale;
- (5) protections for Rice's whales are necessary and appropriate to support species recovery in all areas where Rice's whales are present;
- (6) multiple lines of evidence, including several peer-reviewed scientific articles, document Rice's whale presence in the western and central Gulf of Mexico, outside of their currently defined core habitat area, and additional monitoring should continue to refine our understanding of Rice's whale habitat and behavior;
- (7) any actions which adversely impact Rice's whales must mitigate harm to Rice's whales and their habitat to the greatest extent practicable;
- (8) any Federal Agency actions impacting Rice's whales, or their habitat, must be based on the best available science, and must prioritize recovery of the species.

On page 2, after line 8, insert:

(3) LETTERS OF AUTHORIZATION AND INCIDENTAL HARASSMENT AUTHORIZATIONS.—The Assistant Administrator may not issue Letters of Authorization or Incidental Harassment Authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for any activity related to oil and gas preleasing, leasing, or development, including geological or geophysical survey activities, in the Gulf of Mexico until the Assistant Administrator issues a revised Biological Opinion as a result of reinitiated consultation with the Director under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) and in accordance with this section.