

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 128

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the effects of hydrokinetic turbines on infrastructure and to report the results to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the quest for a viable alternative energy source today will provide the fuel for tomorrow's energy independence, natural resources conservation, environmental protection, and economic engine; and

WHEREAS, one such alternative energy source is the generation of power from the flow, current, or velocity of water, known as hydrokinetic power, through the installation of turbines on riverbeds, bridge piers, or beneath barges, as opposed to hydropower that traditionally refers to power generated using dams or diversionary structures; and

WHEREAS, since hydrokinetic power relies simply on the velocity of water, these zero-head power systems can be placed into sources of flowing water with minimal infrastructure or environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is on the cutting edge of this technology, with the passage of Act No. 875 and Act No. 930 of the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature authorizing the State Mineral and Energy Board to grant leases for the purpose to develop hydrokinetic power; and

WHEREAS, after three years of research and development, which used a combination of private funds and a one million four hundred thousand dollar federal Department of Energy grant, Free Flow Power Corporation is successfully operating its first

full-scale hydrokinetic turbine generator in the Mississippi River attached to Dow Chemical Company's dock in Plaquemine; and

WHEREAS, Free Flow Power Corporation and other companies are examining the installation of such turbines in many other locations on the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, Mark Twain once wrote that "The Mississippi River will always have its own way; no engineering skill can persuade it to do otherwise...;" therefore a study of the effects of this technology on the hydrodynamics of the Mississippi River, including the removal of sediment around critical infrastructure such as bridges or scouring, is needed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Transportation and Development to study the effects of hydrokinetic turbines on infrastructure and to report the results to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE