

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 171

BY REPRESENTATIVE WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the members of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, the governor, and the director of the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) to assist Livingston Parish in successfully resolving outstanding administrative appeals filed with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for reimbursement of costs incurred in association with debris removal in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav.

WHEREAS, in September 2008, Hurricane Gustav caused severe property damage in Livingston Parish leaving an insurmountable amount of debris in, and alongside, public roadsides and in the publicly maintained streams and canals throughout the parish; and

WHEREAS, the debris posed an immediate threat to the lives and property of the citizens of Livingston Parish; and

WHEREAS, officials with FEMA and GOHSEP urged government officials in Livingston Parish to treat the existence of this debris as a public emergency and to have this debris removed as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, government officials in Livingston Parish informed FEMA and GOHSEP of the inability of the parish to pay the hefty price tag associate with the debris removal without receiving federal assistance to defray the cost; and

WHEREAS, those government officials received assurances that federal reimbursement would be forthcoming; and

WHEREAS, in response to the urging of FEMA and GOHSEP, and relying upon assurances provided regarding reimbursement, Livingston Parish hired contractors and incurred tens of millions of dollars in costs that it lacks the resources to pay; and

WHEREAS, scores of Louisiana contractors, relying on full reimbursement from FEMA, utilized their resources to cleanup Livingston Parish; and

WHEREAS, FEMA maintained monitors in the field to observe the debris removal undertaken by the parish and consistently assured the parish officials that the work performed would be eligible for reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, to date, Livingston Parish has not been reimbursed for the majority of costs it incurred for debris removal, including those costs specifically identified by FEMA personnel, as being eligible for reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, Livingston Parish government is currently pursuing two administrative appeals before FEMA seeking to obtain a total of approximately sixty-two million seven hundred sixty-one thousand eight hundred seventy-nine (\$62,761,879) dollars in federal funding, as provided for in FEMA Project Worksheets Nos. 54v1, 05590, 05591, 05593, and 05594; and

WHEREAS, delays by FEMA in reimbursing Livingston Parish for the debris removal project has left Livingston Parish in a precarious financial position and left many Louisiana companies and individuals providing those services facing financial ruin.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the members of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, the governor, and the director of GOHSEP, to assist Livingston Parish in successfully resolving outstanding administrative appeals filed for reimbursement of costs incurred by the parish, and deemed eligible by FEMA, in association with debris removal in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, the governor of Louisiana, and the director of the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE