

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 192

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARDY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To direct the governor and the attorney general of the state to hastily determine who is at fault and then timely pursue actions against those responsible for the resulting oil spill caused by the explosion that occurred on the rig Deepwater Horizon.

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010, an explosion occurred on the rig Deepwater Horizon which resulted in the fire that eventually sank the rig, killed at least eleven crewmen, and threatens Louisiana's delicate coast and industries that rely on the coast with thousands of barrels of oil spewing from five thousand feet on the ocean bottom; and

WHEREAS, it is predicted that leaking oil will threaten the state's natural resources, including land, water, fish, wildlife, fowl, and other biota, and likewise threaten the livelihoods of Louisiana's citizens living along the coast which increases the economic impact of this incident; and

WHEREAS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration models show the oil spill could reach parts of the Louisiana coastline by Thursday, April 29, 2010, and proceed into the Breton Sound and Chandeleur Sound by Saturday, May 1, 2010; at this time, the Pass a L'Outre Wildlife Management Area is expected to see the first impact of the oil spill; and

WHEREAS, a minimum of ten additional state and national wildlife management areas and wildlife refuges in Louisiana and Mississippi are in the direct path of the oil plume and can be expected to be impacted; the Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary, Biloxi Wildlife Management Area, the Breton National Wildlife Refuge, Buccaneer State Park (MS), the Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge (MS), the Gulf Islands National Seashore National Park (MS), Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge (MS), and Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (MS) are all in the direct path of the plume; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastline is comprised of 3.5 million acres of coastal wetlands, which represent approximately forty percent of all the coastal wetlands in the continental United States; furthermore, billions of dollars in ongoing coastal restoration projects may be at risk because of this emergency; and

WHEREAS, this incident will have a long-lasting impact upon the state's natural resources, including land, water, fish, wildlife, fowl, and other biota, and likewise on the livelihoods of Louisiana's citizens living along the coast which increases the economic impact of this incident; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we immediately determine who is at fault and then timely pursue actions against such parties.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct the governor of the state of Louisiana and the attorney general of the state of Louisiana to hastily determine the parties who are at fault in this incident and then timely pursue actions against such parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor and the attorney general.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE