

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 201

BY REPRESENTATIVE THIBAUT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the United States Army Corps of Engineers to examine their protocols for management of the water in the Mississippi River to determine if those protocols are appropriate for water management of the river under current conditions.

WHEREAS, as a result of the Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927, it became obvious that there needed to be a comprehensive and unified system of public works along the Lower Mississippi River in order to manage the river so as to enhance flood protection and enable navigation and use of the river as the resources it is for our country; and

WHEREAS, because that need was obvious, the Mississippi River Commission was formed within the Office of the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Mississippi River and Tributaries project was initiated; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River and Tributaries project involves an extensive levee system to prevent overflows, floodways to divert excess river flows, channel improvements and stabilization efforts, and basin improvements that maximize the benefits realized on the main stem of the river by expanding flood protection coverage and improving drainage into adjacent areas of the alluvial valley; and

WHEREAS, a component of the Mississippi River and Tributaries project was a comprehensive flood control program designed to control the "project design flood" which was developed between 1954 and 1955, and was used to develop the management protocols that are used to this day to make decisions as to when certain structures and spillways along the river will be opened or closed; and

WHEREAS, with the historic flooding that was experienced along the Mississippi River during the spring of 2011, an examination of the results and impacts should be conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers to determine if the protocols

developed for the "project design flood" were appropriated and useful for this historic flood event; and

WHEREAS, in addition to an examination by the Corps of the protocols used to respond to the spring 2011 flood event, because the two management protocols are closely intertwined, the United States Army Corps should include an examination of the appropriateness of the congressional mandate that thirty percent of the water that flows down the Mississippi River at Red River Landing be diverted to flow down the Atchafalaya River.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the U.S. Corps of Engineers to examine their protocols for management of the water in the Mississippi River to determine if those protocols are appropriate for water management of the river under current conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in order to more appropriately manage the water in the Mississippi River to protect the citizens of the state of Louisiana and the other states along the river, if the Corps finds that the Mississippi River and Tributaries protocols need to be revised based on data newly available from the 2011 spring flood, that they take the necessary steps to revise the protocols where they can and where revision will take congressional action, that the Corps request such revisions from congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the president of the Mississippi River Commission.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE