

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 213

BY REPRESENTATIVES RICHARD, DOVE, AND GISCLAIR AND SENATORS
ALLAIN, BROWN, CHABERT, AND GARY SMITH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to terminate all proceedings related to the construction of mitigation in the Raceland area and to locate a place other than Lafourche Parish and Terrebonne Parish as a source for dirt to be used in hurricane protection efforts in Orleans Parish.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been tasked by congress with the responsibility of hurricane protection in Louisiana and the majority of the Corps' efforts are currently focused on New Orleans and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, hurricane protection for that great city and the residents of the extreme southeastern portions of Louisiana is of vital importance; and

WHEREAS, although levee construction, which is being conducted in the New Orleans area, is a very important element of hurricane protection, it is not the only component of hurricane protection; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to construct three mitigation projects in the North Raceland area; and

WHEREAS, these projects will have a detrimental effect on private landowners and the sugar industry in Lafourche Parish; and

WHEREAS, barrier islands and coastal marshes provide essential and beneficial protection from hurricanes and their impacts on the coast of Louisiana, with coastal protection and restoration efforts being essential to the preservation of those barrier islands and coastal marshes; and

WHEREAS, mining dirt from coastal areas that will then be used in the construction of levees in the New Orleans area seems a bit like "Robbing Peter to pay Paul" since the barrier islands and coastal marshes provide the first line of defense for New Orleans and the parishes around Orleans Parish; and

WHEREAS, the place where the state has experienced the most dramatic coastal land loss is in Barataria Bay, bordered on the west side by the parishes of Lafourche and Terrebonne; and

WHEREAS, it is in those two parishes that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that they will be mining dirt for use on the hurricane protection levees around the New Orleans area, a place that has already lost significant amounts of land and really cannot afford to share its dirt with other locales; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and to consider the economic and ecological impact of hurricane protection projects.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to terminate all proceedings related to the construction of mitigation areas in the Raceland area and to locate a place other than Lafourche Parish and Terrebonne Parish to be used as a source for dirt to be used in hurricane protection efforts in Orleans Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the colonel in charge of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE