Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 264

BY REPRESENTATIVES ABRAMSON AND MILLS

ENVIRONMENT: Directs the Dept. of Environmental Quality to investigate the use of dispersants

| 1 | A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION |
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| 2 | To direct the Department of Environmental Quality to investigate the use of dispersants used |
| 3 | in the Deepwater Horizon disaster and their impact on the marine ecosystem of the |
| 4 | Gulf of Mexico and on the coastal estuaries, marsh ecosystems, fish, wildlife, and |
| 5 | people of Louisiana and to report the findings to the House Committee on Natural |
| 6 | Resources and Environment, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the |
| 7 | Senate Committee on Environmental Quality. |
| 8 | WHEREAS, some fifty miles off the Louisiana coast, the Deepwater Horizon drilling |
| 9 | rig experienced a massive and deadly explosion and fire on April 20, 2010, that killed eleven |
| 10 | people before sinking and leaking oil into the Gulf of Mexico; and |
| 11 | WHEREAS, an estimated thirty million gallons of oil have already leaked into the |
| 12 | Gulf of Mexico, exceeding the eleven million gallons of oil that resulted from the Exxon |
| 13 | Valdez disaster; and |
| 14 | WHEREAS, the Deepwater Horizon oil leak is the worst oil leak in Louisiana and |
| 15 | United States history and is the worst environmental disaster the Unites States has faced; and |
| 16 | WHEREAS, in response to the oil leak, BP has tried for over fifty days to stop oil |
| 17 | from spewing into the Gulf of Mexico; and |
| 18 | WHEREAS, as part of its oil leak response, BP has been using dispersants that |
| 19 | contain human health hazards, in particular, Corexit 9500, containing solvents that are listed |
| 20 | as hazardous substances, and Corexit 9527a, containing 2-butoxyethanol, a known acute |
| 21 | human health hazard that may cause injury to red blood cells, the kidney, or the liver; and |

| 1 | WHEREAS, under fire conditions, both of these Corexit products may evolve into |
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| 2 | and emit noxious oxides, which further endangers response workers; and |
| 3 | WHEREAS, BP is simultaneously burning the oil slick and applying Corexit |
| 4 | dispersants, which can result in the poisoning of the air and water along Louisiana's coast; |
| 5 | and |
| 6 | WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ordered BP to find a nontoxic |
| 7 | dispersant to use on the oil leak due to concerns about the long-term effects of Corexit; and |
| 8 | WHEREAS, BP agreed to reduce the amount of Corexit used in the Gulf of Mexico |
| 9 | but has continued to use Corexit in its response efforts; and |
| 10 | WHEREAS, there is presently no comprehensive monitoring program to determine |
| 11 | how the Corexit dispersants, or other aspects of BP's response operation, will impact the |
| 12 | marine ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico and the coastal estuaries and marsh ecosystems of |
| 13 | Louisiana; and |
| 14 | WHEREAS, several oil spill workers have fallen ill and hospitalized during the |
| 15 | cleanup operations; and |
| 16 | WHEREAS, more than five hundred birds have been found dead across the leak |
| 17 | region, and more than two hundred sea turtles and thirty mammals have also been discovered |
| 18 | dead; and |
| 19 | WHEREAS, Louisiana's commercial and recreational seafood industries represent |
| 20 | four billion dollars annually in economic impact to Louisiana and its coastal communities; |
| 21 | and |
| 22 | WHEREAS, in addition to the seafood industries, Louisiana's restaurants, tourism, |
| 23 | and other small businesses have sustained economic impacts due to the oil leak. |
| 24 | THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby |
| 25 | direct the Department of Environmental Quality to investigate the use of dispersants used |
| 26 | in the Deepwater Horizon disaster and their impact on the marine ecosystem of the Gulf of |
| 27 | Mexico and on the coastal estuaries, marsh ecosystems, fish, wildlife, and people of |
| 28 | Louisiana and to report the findings to the House Committee on Natural Resources and |
| 29 | Environment, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on |
| 30 | Environmental Quality. |

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted

2 to the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Abramson

HCR No. 264

Directs the Dept. of Environmental Quality to investigate the use of dispersants used in the Deepwater Horizon disaster and their impact on the marine ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico and on the coastal estuaries and marsh ecosystems of La. and to report the findings to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality.