

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 271

BY REPRESENTATIVES CHAMPAGNE, MORENO, AND ST. GERMAIN AND
SENATOR CHABERT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and express appreciation to representatives of the National Foundation of Women Legislators upon their visit to Louisiana.

WHEREAS, in June of 2010, seven members of the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) visited Louisiana in order to witness personally the disastrous effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; and

WHEREAS, NFWL is a non-profit, non-partisan organization which serves as a forum for empowering women legislators through information and experience; and

WHEREAS, the visiting legislators got a first-hand look at the catastrophic impacts that the oil spill and the moratorium on oil and gas drilling are having on Louisiana's economy, culture, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, these seven legislators are part of the NFWL's coalition of industry experts, agency officials, and a select group of elected women leaders from across the country formed to address the Deepwater Horizon crisis; and

WHEREAS, the legislators met with various coastal officials, including members of the Lafourche Port Commission, Grand Isle Mayor David Camardelle, state wildlife officials, and seafood industry processors and workers; and

WHEREAS, the tour gave the legislators a better understanding of the situation and will aid them in educating their constituents about the widespread, multi-faceted devastation Louisiana is facing; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their meetings with officials and agency representatives, the group witnessed the effects of the spill by air, flying from Grand Isle to Venice with the Coast Guard; saw the effects on Louisiana's wetlands during a boat tour with officials from the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; visited bird nesting areas; saw the

construction of berms and the deployment of booms; and witnessed the innovation of Louisianians working to help themselves by outfitting shrimp trawlers to skim oil; and

WHEREAS, in talking with citizens and visiting the affected areas, the legislators learned of the vital importance of the fishing and oil and gas industries on the state's economy, culture, and future; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's legislators are grateful that their counterparts from throughout the nation took the time to visit the Pelican State to deepen their understanding of Louisiana's coastal crisis; and

WHEREAS, Bette Grand of North Dakota; Patricia Hurley of North Carolina; Marsha Looper of Colorado; Kesha Ram of Vermont; Debbie Riddle of Texas, chair of the NFWL board; Ann Rydalch of Idaho, chair of the NFWL Energy Committee; and Franke Wilmer of Montana merit a special measure of commendation for visiting Louisiana during this unprecedented catastrophe and for the tremendous pride they brought to the state's legislature and citizens upon their historic visit to Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend representatives of the National Foundation of Women Legislators upon their visit to Louisiana and does hereby express enduring appreciation for their efforts on behalf of Louisiana's citizens and coast.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Bette Grand of North Dakota, Patricia Hurley of North Carolina, Marsha Looper of Colorado, Kesha Ram of Vermont, Debbie Riddle of Texas, Ann Rydalch of Idaho, and Franke Wilmer of Montana.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE