

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request continued support for the efforts by the state of Louisiana and others in the Mississippi River Basin to work together toward achieving the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan and a reduction of the hypoxic zone off our coast.

WHEREAS, the continued formation of a large area of hypoxia, or low oxygen levels, in Louisiana's coastal waters remains a threat to the health of our state's productive commercial and recreational offshore fisheries and seafood industry; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has been a participant in the cooperative effort to address this problem through the federal-state Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force since 1997, and the Action Plan for Reducing Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico since 2000; and

WHEREAS, these efforts have engaged twelve states along the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, along with federal agencies and private stakeholders, in a collaborative effort to reduce the average size of the annual hypoxic zone through conservation, ecosystem restoration, and nutrient management and reduction programs; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana and the task force are working with partners such as Mississippi River Basin Land Grant Universities, including Louisiana State University and its Agriculture Center, and programs such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative, in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's office of soil and water conservation, which has developed projects in watersheds across Louisiana, in cooperation with farmers and landowners; and

WHEREAS, industries along the Mississippi River Industrial Corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans are proactively and voluntarily reducing their nutrient releases to the river and the Gulf of Mexico, as highlighted by the Louisiana Department of Environment Quality's environmental leadership program and the updated report entitled "Nutrient Releases to the Mississippi River in the Louisiana Industrial Corridor", completed by the Louisiana Water Synergy Project in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has previously expressed its support for efforts to reduce the Gulf hypoxic zone and ensure the health of the state's offshore fisheries and waters, in resolutions such as HCR No. 47 of the 2000 Regular Session, HCR No. 80 of the 2007 Regular Session, SCR No. 40 of the 2010 Regular Session, and SR No. 84 of the 2012 Regular Session.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Legislature urges and requests continued support for the efforts by our state and others in the Mississippi River Basin to work together toward achieving the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan and a reduction of the hypoxic zone off our coast.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Legislature conveys this support to Louisiana's Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Congressional delegation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor John Bel Edwards, Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, and each member of the Louisiana Congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE