

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 99

BY REPRESENTATIVES WHEAT AND KERNER

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the Pontchartrain Conservancy, formerly known as the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, on thirty years of working towards environmental sustainability and stewardship of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin through scientific research, education, and advocacy

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate the Pontchartrain Conservancy, formerly known as the Lake
3 Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, on thirty years of working towards environmental
4 sustainability and stewardship of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin through scientific
5 research, education, and advocacy.

6 WHEREAS, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation was founded in 1989 by
7 scientists and community leaders, in response to concerns voiced throughout the basin, to
8 be the public's voice, dedicated to restoring and preserving the water quality, coastlines, and
9 habitats of the entire Pontchartrain Basin; and

10 WHEREAS, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
11 organization consisting of a board of directors representing Basin parishes and state
12 regulatory agencies whose mission is to drive environmental sustainability and stewardship
13 through scientific research, education, and advocacy; and

14 WHEREAS, the Pontchartrain Basin comprises over ten thousand square miles of
15 land in southeast Louisiana and Mississippi; and

16 WHEREAS, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin is one of the largest estuarine systems in
17 the Gulf of Mexico containing over twenty-two essential habitats and encompassing both
18 rural and urban land use in the most densely populated region in Louisiana, including metro
19 New Orleans and the state capital, Baton Rouge; and

1 WHEREAS, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin is the heart of the region's commercial and
2 recreational fisheries and the center of southeastern Louisiana's unique cultural heritage, and
3 the estuary's habitats provide important ecological, cultural, and economic benefits to the
4 entire region; and

5 WHEREAS, estuaries and coastal waters provide essential habitat for seventy-five
6 percent of America's commercial fish catch and eighty to ninety percent of the recreational
7 fish catch while at the same time, estuaries protect landowners from floodwaters and act as
8 storm buffers, guarding residential areas from hurricanes; and

9 WHEREAS, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation's programs focus on
10 improving water quality to improve Lake Pontchartrain, coastal restoration in the
11 Pontchartrain Basin, and education of the public about the importance of the Pontchartrain
12 Basin to the economic and environmental health of the region; and

13 WHEREAS, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation is committed to studying,
14 evaluating, and sharing data related to water quality conditions and health, and it has been
15 instrumental in educating the public on water quality issues at both local and regional levels;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation's efforts were responsible for
18 the removal of Lake Pontchartrain and eight other local water bodies from the Clean Water's
19 Act, Section 303(d) Impaired Water Bodies List, allowing people to return to swimming and
20 recreational activities; and

21 WHEREAS, Louisiana is facing a coastal land loss crisis, and the Lake Pontchartrain
22 Basin Foundation has contributed efforts towards coastal restoration, including the planting
23 of over seventy-five thousand trees, the engineering behind the creation of new wetlands,
24 and a six-hundred acre delta; and

25 WHEREAS, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation has deployed thirteen artificial
26 reefs in the Pontchartrain Basin to help sustain and bolster oyster and other fisheries in the
27 region; and

28 WHEREAS, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation reconstructed and restored the
29 New Canal Lighthouse on Lakeshore Drive in New Orleans after it was severely damaged
30 by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, incorporating original wood from the 1890

1 lighthouse that stood on the site, and now operates as the Lake Pontchartrain Basin
2 Foundation New Canal Lighthouse Museum and Education Center; and

3 WHEREAS, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation has elected to change its name
4 to the Pontchartrain Conservancy to better reflect its mission, as it has developed and
5 evolved over the past thirty years into an organization not only committed to restoring the
6 Lake, but also the entire Pontchartrain Basin region.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
8 commend and congratulate the Pontchartrain Conservancy, formerly the Lake Pontchartrain
9 Basin Foundation, on thirty years of working towards environmental sustainability and
10 stewardship of the Pontchartrain Basin through scientific research, education, and advocacy.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the
12 executive director of the Pontchartrain Conservancy.

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)]

HCR 99 Original

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