

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY REPRESENTATIVE ANDERS

COMMENDATIONS: Expresses support for the work of the Louisiana office of soil and water conservation in the Department of Agriculture and Forestry

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express support for the work of the Louisiana office of soil and water conservation in the  
3 Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

4 WHEREAS, the office of soil and water conservation is a major division of the  
5 Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry; and

6 WHEREAS, the critically important role of the office of soil and water conservation  
7 extends back to the creation of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission by the  
8 Legislature of Louisiana in 1938 under Act No. 370, which established the Louisiana  
9 Conservation District Program, whose operation has continued through revisions in 1956 and  
10 1985; and

11 WHEREAS, this role includes collaboration and support for forty-four soil and water  
12 conservation districts, which function as unique local units of government to provide  
13 conservation services for landowners across the state and work in cooperation with  
14 producers and other partner agencies; and

15 WHEREAS, the Louisiana office of soil and water conservation also carries out and  
16 collaborates with numerous partners on projects that promote education, outreach, and  
17 innovation for agricultural, wetland, and urban conservation and management; and

18 WHEREAS, since its creation, the Louisiana office of soil and water conservation  
19 has also worked in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural  
20 Resources Conservation Service to carry out programs and projects under the Soil  
21 Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, the National Watershed Protection and Flood

1 Prevention Act, and the Farm Bill, and worked with farmers and landowners in priority  
2 watersheds across the state in other efforts such as the Mississippi River Basin Healthy  
3 Watersheds Initiative and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program; and

4 WHEREAS, the Louisiana office of soil and water conservation provides essential  
5 services in cooperation with other state agencies, including the Louisiana Department of  
6 Environmental Quality in conducting the Agricultural Solid Waste Management Program  
7 and the Clean Water Act, Section 319 Agricultural Nonpoint Source Management Program;  
8 the LSU Agriculture Center in delivering the Certified Prescribed Burn Manager and Master  
9 Farmer programs; and with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority in  
10 implementing the Coastal Vegetative Planting Program; and

11 WHEREAS, many of these conservation programs and projects continue to provide  
12 multiple public benefits by improving soil stability and fertility, water quality and quantity,  
13 flood control, air quality, and terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat far beyond the scope and  
14 geographic boundaries of the programs and projects implemented; and

15 WHEREAS, these conservation efforts have historically provided and continue to  
16 provide a significant level of socioeconomic stability to many rural areas of the state; and

17 WHEREAS; ongoing, changing, and intensifying land uses in Louisiana underscore  
18 the need to support continuation of efforts by the Louisiana office of soil and water  
19 conservation to address persistent soil and water conservation needs in every Louisiana  
20 parish and to improve water quality in our state's bayous, lakes, rivers, streams, coastal bays,  
21 and estuaries and in the Gulf of Mexico.

22 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives of the  
23 Legislature of Louisiana affirms its support for the Louisiana office of soil and water  
24 conservation and its continued work to improve the state's agriculture, soil health, water  
25 quality, and related natural resources.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
27 to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry commissioner, Mike Strain.

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)]

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HR 23 Original

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Anders

Expresses the support of the House of Representatives for the La. office of soil and water conservation in the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry.