

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY REPRESENTATIVES JORDAN AND SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To designate Monday, April 15, 2019, as ExxonMobil Day at the legislature, to commend ExxonMobil for their long-term contributions to the economy of the state of Louisiana and to the prosperity of her citizens, and to commend and congratulate the employees and retirees of ExxonMobil for their continuous pursuit of excellence.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride and gratitude that the Louisiana House of Representatives commends ExxonMobil for the contributions its operations have made for the past one hundred ten years to the economy of the state of Louisiana and to the prosperity of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana, which began in April 1909 on two hundred twenty-five acres of Baton Rouge farmland with some seven hundred workers, has grown into an ExxonMobil family of companies in Louisiana that, besides the Baton Rouge Refinery, now also includes world-class facilities such as: the Baton Rouge Chemical Plant, the Baton Rouge Polyolefins Plant, the Baton Rouge Plastics Plant, the Port Allen Lubricants Plant, the Port Allen Aviation Plant, the ExxonMobil Production Company, the ExxonMobil Pipeline Company, and XTO Energy; and

WHEREAS, as one of the top employers in the state of Louisiana, employing more than six thousand employees and contractors in the Baton Rouge area, ExxonMobil has workers in nearly every corner of Louisiana, from the Haynesville Shale to the Baton Rouge chemical plants to the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Refinery is the largest manufacturing employer in Louisiana and the fourth largest refinery in the United States, and the Baton Rouge Chemical Plant is the second largest manufacturing employer in the state with ExxonMobil's Louisiana operations; and

WHEREAS, ExxonMobil's engineers, scientists, skilled workers, and support staff in Louisiana have played crucial roles in shaping the energy and petrochemical industry during the past century with revolutionary research innovations and technological breakthroughs, such as the world's first catalytic cracking technology and the development of alkylation processes for the production of high octane aviation fuel during World War II as well as the development of butyl rubber, which led to Baton Rouge's nickname as the "Cradle of Synthetic Rubber"; and

WHEREAS, ExxonMobil's Louisiana operations pay over one hundred million dollars in state and local taxes each year, including over thirty-three million dollars in property taxes in East Baton Rouge Parish alone, and has paid more than one billion dollars in state and local taxes over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, ExxonMobil and its thousands of employees and retirees take an active role in the betterment of the surrounding communities throughout the state of Louisiana by providing more than thirty thousand volunteer hours annually to numerous nonprofit organizations as well as providing financial assistance through charitable contributions and matching grants of over four million dollars each year to hundreds of civic, community, and educational organizations; and

WHEREAS, ExxonMobil's recognition that the challenges of the 21st century, for both the energy industry and our country, will rely on our children having a strong foundation of math and science education in our schools that is reflected in the commitment of a thirteen million dollar funding grant to the National Math and Science Initiative for Louisiana schools and its educational programs such as the Advanced Placement Training as well as support of numerous other educational programs through the Foundation for East Baton Rouge School System; and

WHEREAS, ExxonMobil's facilities in Louisiana are dedicated to operating in an environmentally responsible manner and have been recognized for their efforts as a recipient of numerous awards for their environmental leadership; and

WHEREAS, ExxonMobil is committed to continuous improvement in the safety of its employees, contractors, and the community and its Louisiana facilities have been recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for their voluntary protection programs and safety performance; and

WHEREAS, ExxonMobil is committed to the workforce of the oil and gas industry with the start of the North Baton Rouge Industrial Training Initiative to help address the craft skills demands with a free training program on electrical, welding, pipefitting, and millwright in partnership with Baton Rouge Community College; and

WHEREAS, ExxonMobil's facilities are expanding to construct a new polypropylene production unit in Baton Rouge that will expand production capacity by up to four hundred fifty thousand tons per year, create six hundred jobs during construction, and sixty-five permanent jobs once completed; and

WHEREAS, ExxonMobil's facilities in Louisiana represent substantial long-term investments and their operations retain existing jobs and attract new jobs, provide tax revenue, spur economic growth, and help meet the world's growing energy needs; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon businesses like ExxonMobil, which is taking on the world's toughest energy challenges.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend ExxonMobil on more than a century of partnership and progress with Louisiana and does hereby recognize Monday, April 15, 2019, as ExxonMobil Day at the legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the employees and retirees of ExxonMobil for their continuous pursuit of excellence in safety, corporate responsibility, environmental preservation, and contributions to local education and volunteer leadership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to ExxonMobil's Louisiana Operations.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES