

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY SENATOR LONG AND REPRESENTATIVE NOWLIN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Dr. Virginia Burkett on being honored for her efforts in science by the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Achievement Awards at its seventy-fifth Anniversary Gala.

WHEREAS, Dr. Virginia Burkett, a nationally and internationally recognized leader in research on the impact of climate change on our natural ecosystems, will be honored in Washington, D.C. on April 13, 2011; and

WHEREAS, she is the daughter of Norma Rose of Many, Louisiana, and the late Robert Rose; and

WHEREAS, she attended primary and secondary schools in Biloxi, Mississippi and after graduation, she attended the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, 1968-1969, and then transferred to Northwestern State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science in 1973, with a major in zoology and a minor in chemistry; and

WHEREAS, she taught biology, physics, chemistry and general science at Hickory Ridge High School in Natchitoches, Louisiana, for a year while continuing her education at Northwestern State University, where she was awarded a Master of Science in Botany in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burkett earned a Ph.D. in Forestry with a minor in Applied Statistics from the School of Forestry at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burkett is the coordinator of Global Change Science at the United States Geological Survey; and

WHEREAS, she had formerly served as Chief of Forest Ecology Branch at the National Wetlands Research Center and subsequently as Associate Regional Chief Biologist

for the United State Geological Survey Central Region; and

WHEREAS, prior to becoming a Department of Interior employee in 1991, Dr. Burkett was Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burkett has also served as Director of the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Program, Deputy Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and Assistant Director of the Louisiana Geological Survey; and

WHEREAS, she has published extensively on the topics of global change and low-lying coastal zones; and

WHEREAS, nominated by the United States government, she was a lead author on the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Third Assessment Report and its impacts on coastal and marine ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Burkett is now a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report; and

WHEREAS, she coordinated both the Coastal and Southeast synthesis chapters on the United States National Assessment of climate change and its impacts in 2001, and was a member of the United States National Assessment Synthesis Team; and

WHEREAS, she was a member of the National Research Council's Panel on River Basin and Coastal Systems Planning and several other expert panels and most recently, she served on a climate change impacts panel commissioned by the United Nations Framework Convention on Biological Diversity; and

WHEREAS, she has been appointed to more than forty commissions, committees, expert panels, and boards during her career; and

WHEREAS, said to be one of her proudest career moments, she was named Nobel Laureate for her contributions on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, along with former Vice President Al Gore; and

WHEREAS, for all the honors and recognition she has garnered, around Many, Louisiana, she is still known as "Caleb's mom", where on Friday nights, she is crowded into the stadium with other fans to cheer for the Many Tigers and her son, who is a team member; and

WHEREAS, she also relishes time with her oldest son, Stephen Van Sickle and his

wife, Mary Beth, and their two children; and

WHEREAS, the Burketts are members of the Many First Baptist Church, where she teaches Sunday School and she was instrumental in founding the Taylor House, Sabine's shelter for victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the National Wildlife Federation is a grassroots organization that represents the conservation voice of four million members and supporters, affiliated with wildlife organizations through the United States; and

WHEREAS, starting with a mission to protect the wildlife for future generations quickly evolved into three strategic goals for the National Wildlife Federation including confronting climate change, protecting and restoring wildlife, and connecting people with nature; and

WHEREAS, 2011 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the National Wildlife Federation and its establishment as one of America's premier conservation organizations; and

WHEREAS, in 1936, cartoonist J.N. "Ding" Darling heeded the call of the wild, convening in Washington, D.C., the nation's largest first-ever meeting of conservationists to discuss the plight of vanishing wildlife resources and from this historic event, the National Wildlife Federation was created; and

WHEREAS, the seventy-fifth anniversary gala will include a seated dinner featuring Master of Ceremonies actor Gloria Reuben, along with National Wildlife Federal Naturalist Dave Mizejewski, and some of his animal friends; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Virginia Burkett is admired for her numerous published works on the topics of global change and low-lying coastal zones and now she will be honored by the National Wildlife Federation with the Science Award, which honors those whose discoveries, expertise, and leadership in scientific disciplines have or will advance the cause of natural resources conservation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dr. Virginia Burkett on being honored for her efforts in science by the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Achievement Awards at its seventy-fifth Anniversary Gala.

**SCR NO. 2**

**ENROLLED**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr.  
Virginia Burkett.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES