

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 114

BY SENATORS B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, CHABERT, HEBERT AND  
PETERSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request all executive branch agencies of the state of Louisiana and of the United States and their associated contractors and subcontractors to give priority of opportunities to participate in the rehabilitation effort to those persons who are directly affected by the catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and to encourage BP and its contractors and subcontractors to do the same.

WHEREAS, let the nation heed the warnings of the past, that a way of life which is lost oftentimes cannot be regained; and it is the solemn duty of a state's government to preserve the distinct history and culture of her people; and

WHEREAS, conservation of coastal ecology is key to south Louisiana's cultural survival; a unique culture is at stake, on the brink of extinction, and the Gulf way of life in Louisiana could disappear under a deadly sheen of fugitive oil; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the BP oil spill in the Gulf region south of the state of Louisiana far outstrips the dimensions of the Exxon-Valdez spill, necessitating the closure of vast stretches of Louisiana's wetlands, seafood hatcheries, and wildlife habitats; and

WHEREAS, fishing grounds along Louisiana's coastline and barrier islands are now closed to trapping and fishing, leaving many citizens without a means to make a living; and

WHEREAS, in the last five years, large portions of these wetlands have been significantly affected by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike, and many residents remain under significant financial burdens to repay loans used to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal effects of these storms continue to hamper the livelihood of the residents of coastal parishes, a burden now compounded by the loss of economic opportunity caused by the BP oil spill for those whose income is dependent on commercial

fishing, boat charters, marina operations, or seafood supply, or is linked to the fishing industries and to ecotourism along the south Louisiana coast; and

WHEREAS, the catastrophic effects of the oil spill and its economic and environmental ramifications continue to rage out of control a mere forty miles from Louisiana's most fragile and fertile estuaries; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of BP to stem the flow of oil since the event of April 20, 2010, have been unsuccessful, and the company has failed to address the critical need to first use Louisiana technologies, providers, and services in a meaningful, timely fashion; and

WHEREAS, the people of south Louisiana are well-known for their fortitude and tenacity, with an unquenchable desire to help their neighbors and themselves in times of peril, through trials both great and small; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Workforce Commission has registered more than ten thousand Louisianians, indicating that these citizens are ready to be trained and to begin remediation efforts to reclaim our coast and wetlands for business and recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, the people of south Louisiana are fabled "outside-the-box" thinkers, whose legendary ingenuity has been a part of offshore drilling since the industry's inception; and

WHEREAS, a variety of remedies, both possible and improbable, have been forthcoming from all manner of innovative sources; however, there is no readily-available collection point where these ideas may be communicated, assembled, examined, and evaluated for their implementation; and

WHEREAS, it is with the utmost urgency that executive branch agencies must collaborate to streamline the collection process by creating a highly visible Internet site for the compilation of these bold notions that may save Louisiana's precious wetlands from the current environmental emergency; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that these Louisianians, who have the most to lose and who have formally documented their desire to participate in the cleanup through the labor of their bodies or the exertion of their minds, be given the first and best opportunity to be trained and employed to carry out this important mission.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request all executive branch agencies of Louisiana and of the United States and their contractors and subcontractors to make it a priority to provide opportunities to those persons who are directly affected by the catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico to participate in the rehabilitation of the Louisiana Gulf Coast, and to encourage BP and its contractors and subcontractors to do the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Governor Bobby Jindal and President Barrack Obama.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE