

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 183

BY SENATOR CROWE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality to meet and to function as a joint committee to study the social, economic and environmental impact of the discharge of black liquor and other toxic or hazardous substances to the environment from the Temple Inland facility into the Pearl River, and to report its findings and recommendations to the Senate prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the release of two million gallons of black liquor into the Pearl River significantly and adversely affected the economy, environment, and communities, both directly and indirectly; and

WHEREAS, owners of property adjacent to the Pearl River or other waterways in Louisiana, business owners, and recreational or commercial fishermen affected by the discharge became physically ill, were injured, inconvenienced or frightened due to the contamination of the Pearl River; and

WHEREAS, black liquor impacts the environment through destruction of aquatic ecosystems, and kills a large number of fish estimated possibly in excess of fourteen million, turtles, mussels and other listed endangered species in the Pearl River; and

WHEREAS, the improper discharge has caused an obstruction to navigation under the federal Rivers and Harbors Act, and impaired commerce and the ability of commercial fishermen to harvest fish; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of our state are entitled to know the dangers posed to their health by environmental factors, such as water pollution caused by the discharge of toxic and other harmful substances into navigable waterways.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana urges and requests that the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Environmental Quality meet and function as a joint committee to study the impact of the discharge of black liquor into the Pearl River and to report its findings and recommendations to the Senate prior to the convening of the 2013 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE