

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 226

BY REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health to study cancer incidence in the Colfax, Louisiana area and to report findings of the study to the legislative committees on health and welfare.

WHEREAS, with the recent issuance of a permit by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to a commercial operation in the Colfax, Louisiana area for the open burning and detonation of explosives from a military facility, Louisiana became home to the largest expired munitions disposal project in the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, an open burn of munitions and other hazardous waste is ongoing at the disposal facility near Colfax, which holds the nation's only federal permit to conduct open burning and open detonation in this manner; and

WHEREAS, this permit subjects the disposal facility to regulation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the authority of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; and

WHEREAS, open burning is a disposal method whereby hazardous waste is placed in large metal trays and set on fire, releasing into the environment a multitude of toxins including chlorine, lead, and perchlorate; and

WHEREAS, many of these toxins are known carcinogens; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the American Cancer Society, and the annual America's Health Rankings report, Louisiana historically has had one of the highest cancer mortality rates in the nation, and this trend continues to the present day; and

WHEREAS, effective cancer investigation programs endeavor to improve understanding of cancer incidence by geographic area and to evaluate cancer control interventions; and

WHEREAS, as the open burn of munitions near Colfax continues, it is appropriate for the legislature to call for a study of and report concerning cancer incidence in that area of the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health to study cancer incidence in the Colfax, Louisiana area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study called for in this Resolution, the office of public health shall engage and solicit input from agencies, research institutions, and other groups with expertise in cancer research and environmental sciences including but not limited to the following:

- (1) The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- (2) The Louisiana Cancer Research Center.
- (3) The Louisiana Cancer Prevention and Control Programs of the School of Public Health of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans.
- (4) The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport.
- (5) The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.
- (6) The Louisiana Environmental Action Network.
- (7) The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of public health shall develop a report of findings from the study called for in this Resolution, and shall submit the report to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare no later than thirty days prior to the convening of the 2019 Regular Session of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the assistant secretary of the office of public health of the Louisiana Department of Health, the director of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the chief administrative officer of the Louisiana Cancer Research Center, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans, the chancellor of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality,

the director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the executive director of the Louisiana Environmental Action Network.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES