HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 93
BY REPRESENTATIVE PETERSON

ENVIRONMENT: Establishes the Louisiana Climate Change Policy Commission

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Louisiana Climate Change Policy Commission; to provide for its membership; to provide for its powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities; and to provide for related matters.

WHEREAS, a growing number of states are taking significant actions on the issue of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the continued review of global climate changes offers significant benefit to Louisiana as well as aid in addressing the issue of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life for Louisiana citizens is extremely vulnerable to the projected effects of climate changes which involve a rise in sea-level, the development and dissemination of vector-borne diseases, as well as droughts and heat waves associated with changes in climatic conditions; and

WHEREAS, in its report entitled "Danger & Opportunities: Implications of Climate Change for Louisiana" (May, 1999), a study commission created pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 74 of the 1996 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, outlined Louisiana's unique environmental and economic vulnerabilities to global climate change and identified mitigation options that "... are cost effective and offer significant economic opportunities for Louisiana, along with their environmental benefits."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Louisiana Climate Change Policy Commission (hereafter "Commission"). The
Commission shall be composed of sixteen members who, unless otherwise specified, shall
be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the governor. The membership of the
Commission shall be selected as follows:

(1) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality or the secretary's
designee.

(2) The secretary of the Department of Natural Resources or the secretary's designee.

(3) The secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development or the
secretary's designee.

(4) The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries or the secretary's
designee.

(5) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development or the secretary's
designee.

(6) The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry or the
commissioner's designee.

(7) The chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources or the chair's designee.

(8) The chair of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality or the chair's
designee.

(9) The chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment or the
chair's designee.

(10) The executive assistant of the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities or the
executive assistant's designee.

(11) The executive director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority or the executive
director's designee.

(12) Five members appointed by the governor from a list of professors nominated
by public postsecondary education institutions that offer academic degrees at the
baccalaureate level or higher and regionally accredited independent colleges or universities
that are a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.
Each such institution, college, or university may nominate three professors who teach in at
least one of the following subjects: agriculture, coastal studies, economics, energy studies, environmental studies, landscape planning, and natural resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretaries or their designee, of the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural Resources shall serve as co-chairs of the commission. All other officers, if any, shall be elected by the membership of the commission. The commission shall meet monthly and at the call of the chairs. Commission members shall not receive additional compensation; however, state officers or employees may seek reimbursement of travel expenses, in accordance with PPM 49, from their employing or elected department, agency, or office. Facilities for the meetings of the commission shall be arranged by the Department of Environmental Quality. Support staff for the commission shall be provided by the departments or agencies of the executive branch as requested by the chairs of the commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duties of the commission shall include but are not limited to the following:

(1) Evaluating the policy considerations, goals, or objectives relevant to the development, maintenance, or implementation of a comprehensive policy for the state of Louisiana for climate change, particularly addressing the areas of carbon sequestration; greenhouse gas reduction; diversification and improvement of energy systems; planning for design, land use, and economic development relative to climate change mitigation and environmental improvement; coordination of state and federal policies on climate change.

(2) Provide a public forum for the review and assessment of public and private programs and projects that are aiding efforts in responding to climate change that include but are not limited to America's Energy Coast initiative, America's Wetland Initiative, Louisiana Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and state, federal, and private programs for energy efficiency, building design, and carbon sequestration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall submit a report of their work and their findings, along with any recommendations for legislation, to the governor, the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the Senate Committee on
Establishes the Louisiana Commission on Climate Change Policy with membership to be appointed by the governor as follows:

(1) The secretary of the Dept. of Environmental Quality or the secretary's designee.
(2) The secretary of the Dept. of Natural Resources or the secretary's designee.
(3) The secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development or the secretary's designee.
(4) The secretary of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries or the secretary's designee.
(5) The secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development or the secretary's designee.
(6) The commissioner of the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry or the commissioner's designee.
(7) The chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources or the chair's designee.
(8) The chair of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality or the chair's designee.
(9) The chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment or the chair's designee.
(10) The executive assistant of the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities, or the executive assistant's designee.
(11) The executive director of the La. Recovery Authority or the executive director's designee.
(12) Five members appointed by the governor from a list of professors nominated by the La. public and private colleges and universities. Each such institution, college, or university may nominate three professors who teach in at least one of the following subjects: agriculture, coastal studies, economics, energy studies, environmental studies, landscape planning, and natural resources.

Charges the commission with developing recommendations for climate change policy. Requires the commission to submit a report of their work and their findings, along with any recommendations for legislation, to the governor, the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality, and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources prior to the 2010 R.S.