

1 WHEREAS, man-made levees have contributed significantly to the degradation of
2 the wetlands with the disintegration intensified by the channelization caused by the
3 construction of the Mississippi River levees and man-made canals; and

4 WHEREAS, the seasonal flooding that previously provided sediments critical to the
5 healthy growth of wetlands that sustain our deltaic system has been virtually eliminated by
6 construction of massive levees that channel the river for over a thousand miles which in turn
7 cause the sediment carried by the river to now be discharged into the Gulf of Mexico far
8 from the coast, thereby depriving wetlands of vital sediment; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastal area is critical to our nation's energy security with
10 half of the country's oil refineries, a network of pipelines that serve ninety percent of the
11 nation's offshore energy production and thirty percent of its total oil and gas supply, and a
12 port complex supporting twenty percent of all waterborne commerce vital to thirty-one
13 states; and

14 WHEREAS, these valuable and necessary human activities such as energy
15 exploration, commercial and recreational navigation, agriculture, and development during
16 the past century have affected the wetlands, directly and indirectly, enabling salt water from
17 the Gulf of Mexico to intrude into brackish and freshwater wetlands and contributing to
18 wetlands deterioration and loss increasing the vulnerability of our coastal communities; and

19 WHEREAS, the state has committed extensive resources to address this crisis,
20 through the establishment of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority tasked with
21 development of a state Master Plan to provide hurricane protection, coastal restoration, the
22 reduction of saltwater intrusion, and improving hydrology throughout the coastal area by
23 allowing water to move between the interior and exterior marshes of the system, including
24 a mitigation plan that will create an additional one thousand three hundred and fifty-two
25 acres of coastal marsh, and risk reduction benefits; and

26 WHEREAS, the state has substantially increased its financial commitment to the
27 coast resulting in significant progress on projects that maintain land and reduce risk,
28 however capricious regulatory requirements waste tax payer money, delay or deny projects,
29 and increase risk both to the federal treasury and our citizens resulting in increased
30 construction and emergency response costs.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes
2 the Congress of the United States to recognize that the Louisiana coast is in a state of crisis
3 and in need of recognition by the President and the federal government, that federal disaster
4 attention and cooperation are acutely needed to assist the state to better provide for the
5 health, safety, and welfare of the people who need it most, and to increase federal investment
6 in infrastructure that provides coastal protection in coastal Louisiana.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
8 secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of
9 Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States
10 Congress as well as the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency
11 Preparedness (GOHSEP) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to
12 enable collaboration between the federal, state, and local officials to clear regulatory hurdles,
13 and inform Americans everywhere about the value of our critical communities, ecosystems,
14 and our unique hurricane protection and disaster recovery needs.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Zeringue

Memorializes the U.S. Congress to recognize that the La. coast is in a state of crisis and in need of recognition by the President and the federal government, that federal disaster attention and cooperation are acutely needed to assist the state to get help to the people who need it most, and to increase federal investment in infrastructure that provides coastal protection in coastal La.