

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY SENATOR MORRELL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to reassess the entire levee and floodwall system in the southeastern United States.

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recently completed the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) at a cost of over fourteen billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, the HSDRRS system is a network of levees, floodwalls, gated structures, and pump stations that form the one hundred thirty-three mile Greater New Orleans perimeter system, including three hundred fifty miles of interior levees and floodwalls, and seventy miles of interior risk reduction structures built to protect the Greater New Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, the HSDRRS system is one of the largest public works projects in world history, providing Greater New Orleans with the world's largest surge barrier of its kind (the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier) and the largest draining pump station in the world (the GIWW-West Closure Complex); and

WHEREAS, even with all these recent improvements, the USACE recently reported that the HSDRRS system may not be adequate to protect New Orleans in as little as four years due partly to the settling of the levees -- a natural phenomenon that is exacerbated by the soft soil in southern Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the USACE, in announcing that it is studying system improvements, also cited "the global incidence of sea level rise" in a recent *Federal Register* as a contributing factor for the inadequacy of the existing levees; and

WHEREAS, the USACE further stated in the *Federal Register* that "absent future levee lifts to offset consolidation, settlement, subsidence, and sea level rise, risk to life and property in the Greater New Orleans area will progressively increase".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to reassess the entire levee and floodwall system in the southeastern United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES