

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY SENATOR CORTEZ

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to reauthorize the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area program.

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area program was designated in 2006 for the purpose of enhancing and protecting the historic, cultural, scenic, recreational, and environmental assets in the fourteen-parish region; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is one of fifty-five national heritage areas designated by Congress since 1984; and

WHEREAS, National Heritage Areas tell significant stories that celebrate the nation's diverse heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya basin is the largest and most productive river swamp in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya basin provides habitat for twenty-four federal and state-listed threatened or endangered species or species of concern including the Louisiana black bear, the brown pelican, and the bald eagle; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area supported events and programs that engaged over fifty thousand residents and visitors and leveraged over sixteen thousand volunteer hours since 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area directly leveraged over five million dollars in matching funds over the life of the program; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is among the most culturally-rich and ecologically-varied regions in the United States, home to the widely recognized Cajun culture as well as a diverse population of European, African, Caribbean, and Native-American descent.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to take action to reauthorize the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area program to continue the work of promotion and preservation of the cultural, natural, and recreational resources of the area for the next fifteen years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, 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