

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 256

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to report to the House Committee on Appropriations no later than June 12, 2024, describing potential liabilities to the state general fund if the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project is not timely completed and outlining the steps the state can take to mitigate any impact to the state general fund.

WHEREAS, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is the state agency responsible for the comprehensive master coastal protection plan; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the comprehensive master coastal protection plan is coastal restoration, coastal zone management, storm damage reduction, hurricane protection, flood control, and the protection, conservation, restoration, and enhancements of coastal wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project is an important part of the comprehensive master coastal protection plan; and

WHEREAS, the state began the permitting process for the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project in 2016 and began the construction phase in August of 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project has a \$2.92 billion dollar construction budget, comprised of \$2.26 billion dollars from Natural Resource Damage Assessment funds and \$660 million dollars from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the state has set aside \$378 million dollars for a mitigation and stewardship program; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the state has spent \$422 million dollars to date on pre-construction, construction, and mitigation; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the Plaquemines Parish Government has issued a stop work order on the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the state could owe between \$250 million and \$500 million dollars in damages to subcontractors if the state cancels contracts to build the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project; and

WHEREAS, the repayment of funds may result in significant expenditures from the state fisc.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to report to the House Committee on Appropriations no later than June 12, 2024, describing potential liabilities to the state general fund if the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion project is not timely completed and outlining the steps the state can take to mitigate any impact to the state general fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES