

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 131

BY SENATOR WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Amanda Ames for her extraordinary contributions to Louisiana and to offer congratulations and best wishes upon the occasion of her retirement following twenty-two years of dedicated public service.

WHEREAS, Amanda Ames has announced her retirement following a distinguished twenty-two-year career devoted to the public health and welfare of Louisiana's citizens through her exemplary service in the water industry; and

WHEREAS, Amanda began her tenure with the Safe Drinking Water Program in 2002 as an engineer intern and steadily advanced through a variety of increasingly responsible roles, including District Engineer in her hometown of Lafayette, and later managing grants, contracts, and compliance with state and federal rules; and

WHEREAS, Amanda's broad experience and deep knowledge uniquely qualified her to assume the role of Chief Engineer of the Bureau of Engineering Services in 2015, a position in which she has overseen the regulation and infrastructure of over 1,240 water systems across the state; and

WHEREAS, in this critical leadership position, Amanda has directed key programs such as the Operator Certification Program, the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Program, and the Community Sewerage Program; and

WHEREAS, Amanda has been a steadfast leader during some of the state's most challenging times, including public health crises and devastating natural disasters such as hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Ida, ensuring essential water system operations were maintained and reported for the benefit of the public and critical institutions such as hospitals, schools, dialysis centers, and nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, Amanda has actively contributed to state and national water policy

through her service on numerous important committees and boards, including the Governor's Louisiana Rural Water Infrastructure Committee, the Louisiana Operator Certification Committee, the Sewage Overflow Commission, the LSU Biological Engineering Advisory Council, and as a board member of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA); and

WHEREAS, Amanda's outstanding service and impact have been formally recognized through awards such as the NextGen Courageous Champion Public Service Award in 2020 and the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award from the LSU Biological Engineering Department; and

WHEREAS, under Amanda's guidance and leadership, Louisiana achieved numerous critical program milestones, including:

- Response to the Town of St. Joseph Lead Public Health Emergency;
- Establishment of state bacteriological and disinfection by-product sample collection;
- Adoption of Louisiana Public Water System Design Standards and Significant Deficiencies regulations;
- Launch of the Public Health Water Infrastructure Consolidation Initiative;
- Formation of the Rural Water Infrastructure Commission (RWIC);
- Implementation of the Lead Testing Program for Childcare and Schools Drinking Water;
- Creation of the Community Water System Accountability Rule;
- Development and management of the Louisiana Water Sector Program (WSP);
- Coordination of funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL);
- Introduction of Water System Grades; and
- Advancement of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions and Lead Service Line Inventories; and

WHEREAS, Amanda Ames' career is a testament to her unwavering commitment, visionary leadership, technical expertise, and genuine care for the health and well-being of the people of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Amanda Ames for her exceptional career in public service, recognizes and acknowledges the immense contributions she has made to Louisiana, and extends sincere congratulations and best wishes for a happy and rewarding retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Amanda Ames.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE