

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY REPRESENTATIVES MIKE JOHNSON AND DESHOTEL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Public Service Commission and Cleco Power to approve the sale or merger of a regulated utility only in certain circumstances.

WHEREAS, Cleco Power, the primary subsidiary of Cleco Corporate Holdings LLC, is a regional holding company headquartered in Pineville, Louisiana, has been in business since 1935, and has approximately twelve hundred employees; and

WHEREAS, Cleco, otherwise known as Central Louisiana Electric Company, has a long and significant history in central Louisiana, dating back to the early twentieth century; and

WHEREAS before becoming Central Louisiana Electric Company, with its original roots in the ice business, the company was originally the Louisiana Ice & Electric Company, founded in 1906 in Bunkie, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, when Cleco was officially established in 1935 as Central Louisiana Electric Company Inc., with headquarters located in Pineville, Louisiana, it emerged during a time when rural electrification was still developing and many parts of central Louisiana lacked reliable power; and

WHEREAS, the company began by providing electricity to a small number of customers, expanding its reach through acquisitions and infrastructure development; and

WHEREAS, Cleco Power currently serves approximately two hundred ninety-five thousand customers in twenty-four parishes in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Cleco Power is one of the largest employers in Rapides Parish; and

WHEREAS, it is being reported that Cleco Power is entertaining offers to sell the company; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Public Service Commission (commission) is a constitutionally created regulatory agency and consists of five commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the commission has the jurisdiction to authorize the sale of a regulated utility under Article IV, Section 21(B) of the Constitution of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the approval of certain transactions is required pursuant to the commission's 1994 General Order regarding transfers of ownership or control of the commission's jurisdictional utilities; and

WHEREAS, in the 1994 General Order, the commission established eighteen factors to be considered when determining whether to approve the transfer of ownership or control of utilities and common carriers subject to the commission's jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, one of the factors considered when approving the change of ownership or control of a regulated utility includes, "Whether the transfer will be fair and reasonable to the affected public utility or common carrier employees?"; and

WHEREAS, any sale or merger that would reduce the jobs of central Louisiana residents would negatively impact the employees, economics, and entire population of central Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Public Service Commission to protect the jobs of central Louisiana employees and to only approve any sale, merger, trade, or transaction transferring ownership of Cleco Power to any other entity if and only if there are adequate guarantees and safeguards that preserve the more than four hundred fifty nonservice jobs and one hundred percent of all service jobs currently located at headquarters in Pineville, Louisiana, for ten years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the authorized parties to only approve a sale, merger, trade, or transaction transferring ownership of Cleco Power to any other entity if and only if the more than four hundred fifty nonservice jobs and one hundred percent of all service jobs are retained for ten years at the headquarters located in Pineville, Louisiana, and that the jobs of employees of central Louisiana be maintained at their current level.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Public Service Commission and to Bill Fontenot, CEO and president of Cleco Power.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE