

2026 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 150

BY SENATOR FOIL

CONDOLENCES. To express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the passing of Robert H. "Bob" Baumann.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the  
3 death of Robert H. "Bob" Baumann, longtime director of the Louisiana State  
4 University Center for Energy Studies and trusted advisor on Louisiana energy policy.

5 WHEREAS, it was with deep regret and profound sorrow that the citizens of  
6 Louisiana learned of the death of Robert H. "Bob" Baumann on Thursday, November 6,  
7 2025, at the age of seventy-four; and

8 WHEREAS, it is fitting to express enduring gratitude for Bob Baumann's outstanding  
9 contributions to this state, particularly during more than three decades of service to  
10 Louisiana State University and to the industries that serve as the foundation of the Louisiana  
11 economy; and

12 WHEREAS, born and raised in the Queens borough of New York City, Bob  
13 Baumann graduated from the University of Rhode Island and arrived in Baton Rouge in  
14 1974 to pursue graduate studies at Louisiana State University, where he earned his Master  
15 of Science degree in geography in 1980 under Dr. Jess Walker, with a thesis examining the  
16 interrelationships of marsh elevation, water level, sedimentation, and other selected variables  
17 in the Lower Barataria Basin; and

18 WHEREAS, Bob Baumann fell in love with LSU and the Baton Rouge community

1 and never returned to the northeast, putting down deep roots in Louisiana and devoting the  
2 whole of his professional life to the people, institutions, and industries of this state; and

3 WHEREAS, Bob Baumann was a founding member of the LSU Center for Energy  
4 Studies upon its establishment in 1982 and, over the course of his tenure, rose to lead the  
5 center, building it into an indispensable source of energy information and analysis for the  
6 legislature, public agencies, business and civic groups, and the academic community, and  
7 there was no part of his long career of which he was more justifiably proud than his work  
8 on behalf of Louisiana State University; and

9 WHEREAS, Bob Baumann served as a confidant, friend, and advisor to multiple  
10 leaders of the LSU system, beginning with Chancellor James Wharton, who recognized his  
11 quiet capability and brought him into his inner circle during the 1980s campaign to institute  
12 more selective admission standards at the university; and

13 WHEREAS, Bob Baumann served for many years as LSU's representative at the state  
14 capitol, earning the trust of legislators across the political spectrum and securing critical  
15 support for the university's teaching, research, and outreach missions until his retirement  
16 from LSU in 2007; and

17 WHEREAS, Bob Baumann's blend of intellectual rigor and steady, plain-spoken  
18 clarity made him one of the most trusted voices on energy policy in the state; as Tyler Gray,  
19 a director of the LSU Energy Institute, observed, Bob "authored influential research, advised  
20 governors and legislatures, and shaped major debates with a calm, steady clarity that made  
21 even the most complex oil and gas issues understandable" and was "a tremendous mentor  
22 to generations of students, colleagues, and policymakers"; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2014, in recognition of a career spent bettering the working  
24 environment of Louisiana's oil and gas industry, Bob Baumann received the Lifetime  
25 Achievement Award of the Louisiana Independent Oil and Gas Association, becoming only  
26 the third individual so honored in the association's history; and

27 WHEREAS, in 2023, the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association  
28 presented Bob Baumann with the Hard Hat Award in recognition of his exemplary and  
29 outstanding contributions to Louisiana's oil and natural gas industry, an honor reflecting a  
30 lifetime of service to the sector; and

1           WHEREAS, Bob Baumann was a champion of Louisiana industry at every level of  
2 the legislative process and a persistent voice of reason on questions of pipelines, refining,  
3 petrochemicals, and the broader industrial activity that drives the state's economy, drawing  
4 on a depth of technical and historical knowledge that made him a trusted resource for  
5 legislators, agency officials, and industry advocates alike, on whichever side of an issue they  
6 happened to find themselves; and

7           WHEREAS, following his retirement from the university, Bob Baumann opened the  
8 next chapter of his career as a principal of Hood Baumann and Associates, where he  
9 counseled and represented some of the most significant energy enterprises operating in  
10 Louisiana, including Shell Oil, ConocoPhillips, Enbridge, TC Energy, and Phillips 66, and  
11 continued to bring his characteristic care and seriousness to the work of Louisiana energy  
12 policy until the final days of his life; and

13           WHEREAS, beyond his roles in research and advocacy, Baumann remained a  
14 stalwart supporter of his academic home in the LSU Department of Geography and  
15 Anthropology, securing critical funding for the renovation of the Departmental Alumni  
16 Seminar Room and, with his family, establishing the Robert H. Baumann Family  
17 Scholarship Fund to support outstanding students in the sciences for years to come; and

18           WHEREAS, all who worked with Bob Baumann over the course of his long career  
19 appreciated his graciousness, his integrity, and his unmistakable northeast accent softened  
20 by decades of Louisiana hospitality, and knew him as a generous mentor, a candid counselor,  
21 and a true gentleman of the capitol; and

22           WHEREAS, from the front porch of his office on Spanish Town Road, affectionately  
23 known to those who passed through it as the "Policy Porch," Bob Baumann hosted  
24 legislators, lobbyists, agency officials, students, reporters, and friends for wide-ranging  
25 conversation on anything and everything happening at the capitol, holding open a kind of  
26 standing seminar on Louisiana public life that no other forum could replicate; and

27           WHEREAS, Bob Baumann was a mentor in the fullest sense of the word, generous  
28 with his time, his sage advice, and his wealth of knowledge, and a great many of those who  
29 today carry forward Louisiana's energy and industrial policy work owe some part of their  
30 professional formation to an afternoon, an introduction, or a candid piece of counsel from

