

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATORS HOLLIS, ADLEY, BAJOIE, BARHAM, BOASSO, BROOME, CAIN, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CRAVINS, DARDENNE, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ELLINGTON, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, HINES, JACKSON, JONES, KOSTELKA, LENTINI, MARIONNEAUX, MICHOT, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, ROMERO, SCHEDLER, SHEPHERD, SMITH, THEUNISSEN AND ULLO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the governor and the secretary of the Department of Economic Development to continue to study and make recommendations relative to enhancing air service options to all markets within the state, as well as exploring the feasibility and benefits of the state providing financial assistance or incentives to an airline that chooses to locate its hub operations at Armstrong International Airport.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana is in a process of recovery, rebuilding, and revitalization following the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the severe devastation, the entire state has suffered great economic loss due to the interruption in safe, secure, and reliable air transportation; and

WHEREAS, prior to the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, the entire state was viewed as being under served by the current carriers; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's economic development blueprint, *Louisiana: Vision 2020* recognizes the need for a safe, secure, and reliable statewide transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the greater New Orleans metropolitan area relies heavily on both the tourism and convention businesses with a projected 85,000 employees prior to Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, a vital component to the success and recovery of both of these industries is the availability of safe, secure, and reliable air transportation; and

WHEREAS, the recovery of the New Orleans economy is dependent on air service, yet the increase in air travel options following Hurricane Katrina is dependent on a recovery of the economy; and

WHEREAS, although airline travel at Armstrong International Airport is slowly being brought back following the hurricanes, there exists uncertainty as to when the established airlines will provide service equal to that experienced before the hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, the hub-and-spoke system allows an airline to use a central airport as its "hub" with the ability to route numerous flights, or "spokes," through the hub in a more efficient and economic manner; and

WHEREAS, as a hub, the state of Louisiana and Armstrong International Airport would see a significant impact in both the increase in available air service, as well as the increase in the number of passengers able to access Louisiana through safe, secure, and reliable air transportation; and

WHEREAS, it is vital to the continued recovery, rebuilding, and revitalization of the state of Louisiana, as well as continued economic growth, that the governor and the secretary of the Department of Economic Development continue to study and make recommendations relative to enhancing air service for the benefit of the state's citizens and businesses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the governor and the secretary of the Department of Economic Development to continue to study and make recommendations relative to enhancing air service options to all markets within the state, as well as exploring the feasibility and benefits of the state providing financial assistance or incentives to an airline that chooses to locate its hub operations at Armstrong International Airport.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor of the state of Louisiana and to the secretary of the Department of Economic Development.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES