

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATORS PEACOCK, ADLEY, BUFFINGTON, LONG AND TARVER

WATER/WATERWAYS. Objects to federal mandate to reduce lock and dam service on the Red River and requests Corps of Engineers to maintain navigability on the Red River or otherwise to suspend the mandate.

A RESOLUTION

To object to the mandate of the United States Army Corps of Engineers to reduce lock and dam service on the Red River, and to urge and request the United States Army Corps of Engineers to maintain navigability on the Red River twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, three hundred sixty-five days per year, as required by Section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, P.L. 90-483, or alternatively, to suspend implementation of the mandate until the United States Army Corps of Engineers conducts a cost-benefit analysis and researches statements from the public hearings conducted.

WHEREAS, in 1968 the United States Congress authorized the Red River Waterway Project; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the project was to enable year-round navigation on the Red River by straightening the river, stabilizing its banks and constructing five locks and dams; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Shreveport-Bossier was constructed to grow commerce on the Red River, one of the region's top assets; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 an economic impact study concluded that the economic benefit of the project to the seven-parish region included attracting four billion six hundred million

1 dollars in new monies, increasing new business sales by eight billion four hundred million
2 dollars, increasing household earnings by two billion seven hundred million dollars and
3 creating an average of two thousand one hundred seven new jobs per year; and

4 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has issued a mandate that
5 will result in locks and dams three, four, and five, not being fully operational twenty-four
6 hours per day, seven days per week, three hundred sixty-five days per year as required by
7 Section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, P.L. 90-483; and

8 WHEREAS, this mandate jeopardizes the reliability of usage of the Red River, not
9 only for current industries, but will discourage others from locating at the port; and

10 WHEREAS, the mandate causes negative impacts on safety and emergency rescues
11 and homeland security; and

12 WHEREAS, in addition, the port is utilized for recreation and tourism, which is
13 another important economic engine; and

14 WHEREAS, the river could remain navigable twenty-four hours per day, seven days
15 per week, three hundred sixty-five days per year if the Corps allocates more funds.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
17 does hereby object to the mandate of the United States Army Corps of Engineers to reduce
18 lock and dam service on the Red River.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does
20 hereby urge and request the United States Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the
21 navigability of the Red River twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, three hundred
22 sixty-five days per year, as required by Section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968,
23 P.L. 90-483.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, alternatively, the Senate of the Legislature of
25 Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Army Corps of Engineers to
26 suspend the implementation of such mandate until it conducts a cost-benefit analysis and
27 researches statements from the public hearings conducted.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
29 Colonel Jeffrey R. Eckstein, district commander for the Vicksburg District, United States
30 Army Corps of Engineers.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Sharon F. Lyles.

DIGEST

Peacock

SR No. 34

Objects to mandate of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce lock and dam service on the Red River; requests the Corps to maintain navigability on the Red River 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year, as required by Section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, P.L. 90-483; alternatively, requests the Corps to suspend implementation of its mandate until it conducts a cost-benefit analysis and researches statements from the public hearings conducted.