

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATORS PEACOCK, ADLEY, BUFFINGTON, LONG AND TARVER

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

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has issued a mandate that will result in locks and dams three, four, and five, not being fully operational 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; and

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the navigability of 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.

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE