

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 84

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the commissioner of administration and the director of the governor's office of coastal activities to utilize all available funding when considering the implementation of the Gulf hypoxia action plan.

WHEREAS, the growth of a large zone of low oxygen, known as hypoxia, off the coast of Louisiana, has been a concern for a number of years, and poses a significant threat to the health of Louisiana's productive offshore fishery; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has been a partner in the cooperative effort by the federal government and other states in the Mississippi River basin to reduce the nutrient loading that fuels Gulf hypoxia, including the adopting of the *2008 Action Plan to Reduce Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico*; and

WHEREAS, a key element of the plan is the adoption of state nutrient reduction strategies to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus inputs to the Mississippi River and its tributaries, and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's nutrient reduction strategy has articulated voluntary actions to reduce non-point source nutrient loading in tributary watersheds to the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers, voluntary reductions by facilities in the industrial corridor to the Gulf of Mexico, and the state's coastal restoration program; and

WHEREAS, the *2012 Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast* supports the efforts of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Department of Environmental Quality to implement the state's nutrient reduction strategy under the Gulf hypoxia action plan; and

WHEREAS, the likelihood of cuts in the budgets of federal programs will significantly reduce and possibly eliminate traditional funding sources for these programs, as well as funding for the implementation of the Gulf hypoxia action plan; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is expected to receive substantial funds resulting from the 2010 BP oil disaster, including Clean Water Act penalties, natural resource damage assessment monies, and criminal and civil suit settlements to apply to the restoration of the Gulf of Mexico waters and coastal ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, reduction of the Gulf of Mexico's hypoxia zone is a necessary step in restoring the health of the Gulf of Mexico, as well as long-standing goals of the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the commissioner of administration and the director of the governor's office of coastal activities to utilize all available funding when considering the implementation of the Gulf hypoxia action plan involving agricultural practices, wetlands, conservation and restoration, and watershed management in the tributary basins of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers, such as those of the Boeuf, Ouachita, Tensas and Black rivers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the commissioner of administration and the director of the governor's office of coastal activities.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE