

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY REPRESENTATIVE BURFORD AND SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, APPEL, BROWN, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, GALLOT, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MURRAY, PEACOCK, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, AND WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request that the United States Army Corps of Engineers maintain, through its dredging process, a minimum nine feet deep by two hundred feet wide channel to allow safe and reliable barge transportation on the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway on the Red River and to maintain such 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 and to urge and request that the United States Army Corps of Engineers operate all lock and dam facilities on the Red River twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, three hundred sixty-five days per year.

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 Caddo-Bossier and others were 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 household earnings by two billion eight 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 Nos. 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, a minimum nine feet deep by two hundred feet wide channel provides reliable navigability for commercial and recreational development on the Red River, not only for current industries, but for others considering locating to the Red River; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Red River is utilized for recreation and tourism, including hosting the 2009 and 2012 Bassmaster Classic, which is another important economic development engine.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request that the United States Army Corps of Engineers maintain, through its dredging process, a minimum of nine feet deep by two hundred feet wide channel to allow safe and reliable barge transportation on the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway on the Red River and to maintain such 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge, request, and recommend that the United States Army Corps of Engineers operate all lock and dam facilities on the Red River twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, three hundred sixty-five days per year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE