HLS 15RS-1374 ENGROSSED

2015 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 172

BY REPRESENTATIVES REYNOLDS, ADAMS, ARNOLD, CONNICK, EDWARDS, FOIL, GAROFALO, HARRISON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, MIKE JOHNSON, LEOPOLD, JAY MORRIS, SHADOIN, AND THIERRY

ENVIRONMENT/AIR: Directs the Louisiana National Guard not to accept certain waste at Camp Minden

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To direct the Louisiana National Guard not to accept waste explosives at Camp Minden after
3	August 1, 2015.
4	WHEREAS, during the response to the explosion that occurred at the Explo Systems,
5	Inc., operations at Camp Minden in 2012, responders discovered a large quantity of the
6	waste artillery propellant, M6, improperly stored; and
7	WHEREAS, shortly after relocating the waste into buildings and bunkers on Camp
8	Minden, Explo Systems, Inc., filed bankruptcy, leaving the Louisiana National Guard with
9	ownership of fifteen million pounds of the propellant; and
10	WHEREAS, in pertinent part, federal regulation 40 CFR Part 265.382 provides that
11	the "open burning of hazardous waste is prohibited except for the open burning and
12	detonation of waste explosives. Waste explosives include waste which has the potential to
13	detonate and bulk military propellants which cannot safely be disposed of through other
14	modes of treatment."; and
15	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality adopted a similar
16	rule banning the open burning of hazardous waste but created an exemption for waste
17	explosives; and

1	WHEREAS, the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requires that all
2	hazardous wastes are managed in a manner that is protective of human health and the
3	environment; and
4	WHEREAS, open burning of waste explosives poses a danger to the health and
5	safety of citizens and threatens the economic development of the state; and
6	WHEREAS, the same concerns that resulted in prohibiting the open burning of
7	hazardous waste should be applicable to prohibiting the open burning and detonation of
8	waste explosives; and
9	WHEREAS, experts at the United States Environmental Protection Agency state that
10	based on experience and research "open burning/open detonation (OB/OD) is a relatively
11	uncontrolled, dirty, polluting technology" and that an open burn at Camp Minden, Louisiana,
12	would require "an extensive and costly clean up/remedial action"; and
13	WHEREAS, along with local leaders, elected officials, and thousands of citizens in
14	north Louisiana, the cities of Minden, Doyline, Sibley, and Bossier and Shreveport, Webster
15	and Caddo parishes, the Caddo school board, the Jenkins Community Water System, the
16	Minden Chamber of Commerce, and the Louisiana Municipal Association expressed
17	concerns about the safety of the proposed open burn; and
18	WHEREAS, the Camp Minden Dialogue Committee brought together citizens, local
19	scientists, elected officials, representatives from the Louisiana National Guard, the
20	Department of Environmental Quality, the United States Environmental Protection Agency
21	Region 6, and the United States Army for thirty days to review and evaluate alternatives to
22	the proposed open burn of the M6 propellant at Camp Minden; and
23	WHEREAS, this committee found that multiple alternative disposal technologies
24	exist; and
25	WHEREAS, likewise, over the past fifteen years the United States Department of
26	Defense Explosives Safety Board has certified a number of alternative disposal technologies
27	as safe for the destruction of hazardous wastes that are explosive; and
28	WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana, the United States Environmental Protection
29	Agency, and the citizens of North Louisiana are currently working together to select and
30	implement an alternative technology for the disposal of the M6 propellant; and

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- 1 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana should take steps to protect its citizens by
- 2 preventing a dangerous situation like Camp Minden from ever occurring again.
- 3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Legislature does hereby direct
- 4 the Louisiana National Guard not accept waste explosives at Camp Minden brought into the
- 5 state after August 1, 2015.
- 6 BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
- 7 the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard.

## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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2015 Regular Session

Reynolds

Directs the La. National Guard not accept any more waste explosives at Camp Minden brought into the state after August 1, 2015.