

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request continued support for the efforts by the state of Louisiana and others in

3 the Mississippi River Basin to work together toward achieving the goals of the Gulf

4 Hypoxia Action Plan and a reduction of the hypoxic zone off our coast.

5 WHEREAS, the continued formation of a large area of hypoxia, or low oxygen
6 levels, in Louisiana's coastal waters remains a threat to the health of our state's productive
7 commercial and recreational offshore fisheries and seafood industry; and

8 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has been a participant in the cooperative effort
9 to address this problem through the federal-state Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico
10 Watershed Nutrient Task Force since 1997, and the Action Plan for Reducing Hypoxia in
11 the Northern Gulf of Mexico since 2000; and

WHEREAS, these efforts have engaged twelve states along the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, along with federal agencies and private stakeholders, in a collaborative effort to reduce the average size of the annual hypoxic zone through conservation, ecosystem restoration, and nutrient management and reduction programs; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana and the task force are working with partners such as Mississippi River Basin Land Grant Universities, including Louisiana State University and its Agriculture Center, and programs such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative, in collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry's office of soil and water conservation, which has

1 developed projects in watersheds across Louisiana, in cooperation with farmers and
2 landowners; and

3 WHEREAS, industries along the Mississippi River Industrial Corridor between
4 Baton Rouge and New Orleans are proactively and voluntarily reducing their nutrient
5 releases to the river and the Gulf of Mexico, as highlighted by the Louisiana Department of
6 Environment Quality's environmental leadership program and the updated report entitled
7 "Nutrient Releases to the Mississippi River in the Louisiana Industrial Corridor", completed
8 by the Louisiana Water Synergy Project in 2014; and

9 WHEREAS, Louisiana has previously expressed its support for efforts to reduce the
10 Gulf hypoxic zone and ensure the health of the state's offshore fisheries and waters, in
11 resolutions such as HCR No. 47 of the 2000 Regular Session, HCR No. 80 of the 2007
12 Regular Session, SCR No. 40 of the 2010 Regular Session, and SR No. 84 of the 2012
13 Regular Session.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Legislature urges and requests
15 continued support for the efforts by our state and others in the Mississippi River Basin to
16 work together toward achieving the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan and a reduction
17 of the hypoxic zone off our coast.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Legislature conveys this support
19 to Louisiana's Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Congressional delegation.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to
21 Governor John Bel Edwards, Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, and each member of the
22 Louisiana Congressional delegation.

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)]

HCR 70 Original

2016 Regular Session

Zeringue

Urges continued support for the efforts by Louisiana and others in the Mississippi River Basin to work together toward achieving the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan and a reduction of the hypoxic zone off our coast.