

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 289

BY REPRESENTATIVE MACK

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Conservation and Energy to review policies and practices related to the redaction of proposed well site locations.

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.S. 30:1 et seq., the Department of Conservation and Energy is charged with regulating the siting, construction, and operation of wells; and

WHEREAS, the department is required to provide the public and interested parties with an opportunity to participate in the permitting process; and

WHEREAS, a recent trend has emerged among Class VI permit applications that include a request from the applicant that proposed well site locations not be made public; and

WHEREAS, a prior version of the Louisiana Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act contained a provision, R.S. 30:1104(F), which provided for confidentiality of information contained in Class VI permit applications; and

WHEREAS, this provision was repealed by Act 458 of the 2025 Regular Session; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 44:3.2 regarding proprietary and trade secret information is also cited by applicants as justification for requesting the redaction of proposed well sites; and

WHEREAS, the department has previously notified Class VI applicants that the location of their proposed Class VI wells should not be claimed as confidential and that the department plans to upload the well locations on its website; and

WHEREAS, the department requires that the Class VI well location be publicly available prior to progressing its review of a Class VI application towards the required public notice and comment period that precedes the department's permit decision; and

WHEREAS, the department continues to look into ways to make the well locations within Class VI applications publicly available; and

WHEREAS, the redaction of proposed well sites for any class of permit prevents the public and parties who may have a direct interest in the site from being able to participate in the permitting process; and

WHEREAS, public notice, hearing, and comment periods required by law cannot perform their intended function if the public is not permitted to know about a proposed well site; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the department review the current laws, regulations, and policies regarding confidentiality of information contained in well permit applications as well as the practices of permit applicants so that the department may effectively carry out its duties and the public can participate in an informed way.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Conservation and Energy to review all applicable and relevant laws, regulations, policies, and practices regarding the redaction of proposed well sites in permit applications and to submit a written report of its findings to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, together with any recommendations for legislative action required to allow the department to carry out its mandates and the public to have a meaningful opportunity to participate in the permitting process by March 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Conservation and Energy.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES