

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 343

BY REPRESENTATIVES FIRMENT, BOUDREAUX, CARRIER, ROBBY CARTER, CHASSION, COATES, COX, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, DEWITT, DICKERSON, FARNUM, FISHER, FREIBERG, GLORIOSO, ILLG, JORDAN, LAFLEUR, LARVADAIN, MCMAHEN, OWEN, SCHAMERHORN, WILDER, AND WILEY

A RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to oppose to any effort to transfer, divest, privatize, or otherwise remove portions of the Kisatchie National Forest located within Grant Parish from federal public ownership; to recognize the extraordinary natural, cultural, recreational, and historical importance of the Kisatchie National Forest to Grant Parish and the state of Louisiana; to express the unwavering opposition of any transfer efforts by the citizens of Grant Parish and the state of Louisiana; and to further urge increased federal and state investment in outdoor recreation, conservation, tourism, and family-friendly opportunities associated with the forest.

WHEREAS, the Kisatchie National Forest stands as one of Louisiana's greatest natural treasures and represents a vast and irreplaceable landscape of towering pines, rolling hills, hardwood bottoms, winding creeks, pristine lakes, scenic trails, and abundant wildlife that together form a living testament to the beauty and spirit of central Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Grant Parish occupies a uniquely honored place within the state of Louisiana because it contains more acreage of the Kisatchie National Forest than any other parish in the state, a distinction that generations of Grant Parish citizens have embraced with profound pride, gratitude, and reverence; and

WHEREAS, the people of Grant Parish have long understood that the Kisatchie National Forest is far more than merely public land, but is instead an essential part of the parish's identity, heritage, culture, economy, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, countless families throughout Grant Parish have built lifelong memories within the forest through hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, horseback riding, birdwatching, boating, trail riding, wildlife observing, and countless other outdoor traditions that have been lovingly passed down from one generation to the next; and

WHEREAS, the forests, streams, and wilderness areas of Kisatchie provide a refuge from the pressures of modern life and offer families, children, sportsmen, conservationists, veterans, and visitors alike the rare opportunity to experience quiet solitude, natural beauty, outdoor adventure, and a meaningful connection to God's creation; and

WHEREAS, the Kisatchie National Forest serves as an economic driver for Grant Parish and surrounding communities through tourism, outdoor recreation, sporting activities, hospitality, forestry, and small business development, while simultaneously preserving the scenic character and rural heritage that make Grant Parish so exceptional; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of large, publicly accessible tracts of undeveloped wilderness is becoming increasingly rare throughout the United States, making the Kisatchie National Forest an even more valuable and irreplaceable asset for future generations of Louisianians; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Grant Parish deeply value the principle that the Kisatchie National Forest belongs to the people and should remain protected and accessible for the enjoyment, recreation, and benefit of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, recent discussions and proposals concerning the possible transfer of portions of the Kisatchie National Forest from federal ownership to ownership by the state, local governmental entities, private interests, or other nonfederal ownership structures have generated significant concern among the citizens of Grant Parish and throughout central Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, while the authors and supporters of such proposals may be motivated by sincere and well-intended concerns regarding land management, economic development, local control, or governmental efficiency, the citizens of Grant Parish nevertheless firmly believe that the long-term risks associated with fragmentation, privatization, restricted public access, commercial overdevelopment, and potential loss of conservation protections outweigh any perceived benefits of such transfers; and

WHEREAS, the desire of the people of Grant Parish is not the reduction or divestiture of the Kisatchie National Forest, but rather renewed investment in the forest and its surrounding communities through enhanced recreational infrastructure, expanded family-friendly activities, improved campgrounds and trails, increased conservation efforts, tourism promotion, and greater opportunities for outdoor education and public enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the Kisatchie National Forest represents a sacred inheritance entrusted to the current generation for careful stewardship and preservation so that future generations may continue to experience the same freedom, beauty, outdoor traditions, and sense of wonder that have defined life in Grant Parish for decades.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to oppose any effort to transfer, privatize, divest, or otherwise remove portions of the Kisatchie National Forest located within Grant Parish from federal public ownership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives does hereby recognize the extraordinary importance of the Kisatchie National Forest to the heritage, identity, culture, economy, recreation, and quality of life of the citizens of Grant Parish and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives respectfully urges and requests the Congress of the United States to oppose proposals seeking to transfer or privatize portions of the Kisatchie National Forest and to instead work collaboratively with local communities to preserve and strengthen public access, conservation, and responsible stewardship of the forest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives urges and requests increased federal and state investment in outdoor recreation, tourism, conservation, trails, campgrounds, youth programs, family-oriented activities, wildlife habitat management, and other initiatives designed to maximize the tremendous recreational and economic potential associated with the Kisatchie National Forest in Grant Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the United States secretary of Agriculture, the chief of the United States Forest Service, the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES