

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROBBY CARTER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, to study the effects of certain withdrawals from rivers and river segments in the natural and scenic river program and to report the findings to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

WHEREAS, it is the constitutional duty of the legislature to enact laws to protect, conserve, and replenish the natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and aesthetic quality of the environment, insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of that duty the Legislature of Louisiana enacted the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act to preserve, protect, develop, reclaim, and enhance the wilderness qualities, scenic beauties, and ecological regime of the unique and diverse free-flowing rivers, streams, and bayous for the present and future benefit of Louisiana citizens; and

WHEREAS, the system of natural and scenic rivers is administered for the purpose of preserving aesthetic, scenic, recreational, fish, wildlife, ecological, archaeological, geological, botanical, and other natural and physical features and resources found along these streams or segments thereof; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has the largest natural and scenic stream system in the nation including more than eighty rivers or river segments; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the latter half of the last decade this state experienced an oil and gas exploration and production boom with the economic viability of using hydraulic fracturing stimulation operations to produce hydrocarbons from formations such as the Haynesville Shale and the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale; and

WHEREAS, while this boom brought welcomed economic prosperity for workers, property owners, and the state, it also brought the need for massive amounts of water for these operations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Geological Survey estimates an average Haynesville Shale well requires five million seven hundred thousand gallons of water; and

WHEREAS, there has been occasion where operators of hydraulic fracturing stimulations operations obtained the required water from a river or river segment designated as a natural and scenic river.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, to study the effects of withdrawals for oil and gas operations from rivers and river segments in the natural and scenic river program and to report the findings to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on or before March 1, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretaries of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE