

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 164

BY SENATOR WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the office of community development within the division of administration to work with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative to create an independent watershed region for the Amite River Basin.

WHEREAS, Governor John Bel Edwards launched the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI), governed by the Council on Watershed Management, to reform the state's approach to flood mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the LWI pursues a holistic approach to watershed management, going beyond conventional mitigation measures and incorporating nature-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, among the LWI's goals is the development of a management plan for each of the watersheds in its eight districts; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana established the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District by Act No. 896 of the 1981 Regular Session of the Legislature to function as the floodplain manager and coordinator of flood risk reduction in the basin; and

WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin is comprised of portions of the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, and St. James, all of which were heavily impacted and declared federal disaster areas due to the catastrophic flooding of 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin is currently included in LWI region seven, which includes several parishes that are not within the basin; and

WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin includes the most populous parish and two of the fastest growing parishes in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, given the urgent flood risk, large and growing population, rapid project development, and the prolific availability of current flood data and analysis, the Amite River Basin must exist as its own region with a unique management plan within the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of community development within the division of administration to work with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative to create an independent watershed region for the Amite River Basin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the office of community development within the division of administration.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE