

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 197

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHEXNAYDER

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request electric utility companies to collaborate with associations representing livestock producers to allow for the repurposing of utility poles that are replaced as a result of statewide resiliency endeavors.

WHEREAS, weather events in recent years have caused substantial property damage in our state, including millions of dollars of damage to agricultural property; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana law prohibits livestock from roaming at large and authorizes law enforcement to take livestock found at large into custody; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana livestock producers are constantly having to rebuild agricultural fences after natural disasters to keep their livestock contained and remain in compliance with state law; and

WHEREAS, increased prices of materials along with frequent rebuilding have placed a significant financial burden on livestock producers; and

WHEREAS, electric utility companies have developed plans to invest in more resilient and robust infrastructure over the next several years; and

WHEREAS, the legislature supports prioritization of these forthcoming investments by electric utility companies, which will result in a stronger grid along with the replacement of many thousands of poles throughout the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, these utility poles could be repurposed by livestock producers as agricultural fencing, minimizing other forms of pole disposal while assisting livestock producers with post-storm recovery.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request electric utility companies operating in Louisiana to collaborate with associations representing livestock producers to allow for

the repurposing of utility poles, where environmentally permissible and to the extent possible, during the course of their multi-year utility resilience investments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive vice president of the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association, the president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, and the executive secretary of the Public Service Commission.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES