

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 321

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROMERO

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take action on feral hog toxicant testing and registration.

WHEREAS, feral hogs pose a significant threat to Louisiana's environment, economy, natural resources, and agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, the feral hog population in Louisiana has reached nearly one million, causing extensive damage to agricultural lands, native habitats, and water systems; and

WHEREAS, this damage has significant impacts on costs related to the production of agricultural commodities, repair of land, and harvest yields; and

WHEREAS, the associated economic losses are substantial, with damages estimated at more than \$90 million in Louisiana alone and exceeding \$1.5 billion nationally; and

WHEREAS, LSU AgCenter researchers have developed a toxicant utilizing the active ingredient sodium nitrite as a potential mitigating solution; and

WHEREAS, appropriate and adequate testing is necessary to ensure safety and efficacy of the product with the intended species; and

WHEREAS, current guidance by the EPA estimates that the testing and approval of the toxicant is unlikely to receive authorization sooner than ten years; and

WHEREAS, such delays will allow for losses and economic impacts exceeding \$15 billion nationally over that period; and

WHEREAS, failure to expeditiously review and appropriately approve the labeled application of the toxicant will threaten the stability of our agricultural economies and the safety and security of our food sources.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana urges and requests the United States Congress and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to approve the LSU AgCenter's request to utilize the Limited Replicated Field Trials Exemption, as allowed in Chapter 12 of the EPA Pesticide Registration Manual for testing of a feral swine toxicant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon appropriate testing and review that the United States Environmental Protection Agency should promptly issue pesticide registration for the feral swine toxicant once all necessary research and safety assessments are provided.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana emphasizes the critical need for timely action to combat the feral swine population in the state and protect our state's natural resources, including water quality, native vegetation, and wildlife.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana encourages the United States Congress to support and advocate for the swift review and approval process at the EPA, recognizing the urgency of addressing this invasive species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, members of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES