

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 144

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents to take all such actions as are necessary to provide for a rigorous, peer-reviewed study on the potential direct and indirect effects of mixing various streams of carbon captured from industrial sites and directly from the air on Louisiana's water supply and ecological environment and to submit a series of written reports to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana has enacted laws permitting certain activities involving the permanent subsurface injection of carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for comprehensive risk analysis in complex geological settings across Louisiana, especially in high priority areas under consideration for permanent injection sites, such as in southeastern, southwestern, western, and northeastern Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, some have raised questions about the potential effects of these activities in terms of public health, groundwater protection, and ecological harm; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to prioritize academic research on these potential effects.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents to take all such actions as are necessary to provide for a rigorous, peer-reviewed study on the potential direct and indirect effects of mixing various streams of carbon captured from industrial sites and directly from the air on Louisiana's water supply and ecological environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall provide for, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Analysis of whether there should be concern over the mixing of multiple carbon dioxide streams from disparate industrial sources in the same or communicating subsurface geological zones, including potential physical, chemical, and rock-matrix interactions, pressure effects, and risks of unintended communication via faults, fractures, or stratigraphic and hydrologic pathways.

(2) Analysis of whether the current structural and regulatory framework for oversight of these injection activities in Louisiana is sufficient to protect underground sources of drinking water and the broader ecological environment, and, if not, the study should include specific, actionable recommendations for optimization or improvement, including any needed coordination among the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Conservation and Energy, federal agencies, and other entities.

(3) Analysis grounded in the actual purity levels, impurity profiles, and stream compositions contained in Class VI well permit applications already submitted by project applicants to the state, rather than any notional, generic, or hypothetical carbon dioxide stream data.

(4) Coordination, as appropriate, with the Louisiana Geological Survey, the Louisiana state geologist, the United States Geological Survey, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency for data access and technical input, while maintaining full independence in findings and conclusions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall submit the following to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment:

(1) An initial report summarizing preliminary findings and data-gathering status no later than January 1, 2027.

(2) An interim report with substantive analysis and preliminary recommendations no later than June 1, 2027.

(3) A final, comprehensive, peer-reviewed research report with complete findings, hazard rankings, recommendations, and any supporting modeling no later than June 1, 2028.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents shall notify the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment of any participating institutions and a plan for the completion of the study no later than forty-five days after the adoption of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Board of Regents, the commissioner of higher education, the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, and the secretary of the Department of Conservation and Energy.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES