

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 133

BY SENATOR LONG

COMMENDATIONS. To commend Robert "Bob" Harper for forty-two years of service in state government.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate Robert "Bob" Harper upon his much deserved retirement
3 after forty-two years of service in state government.

4 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens and the Senate of Louisiana have
5 learned of the much deserved retirement of Bob Harper; and

6 WHEREAS, Bob received his baccalaureate degree in political science from
7 Louisiana State University; and

8 WHEREAS, he began his career in state government on September 1, 1970, at the
9 State Library and then took a position as senior budget analyst at the Division of
10 Administration, where he worked for the office of planning and budget and participated in
11 the legislative appropriations cycles for twenty consecutive years; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1993, he was initially appointed to the position of undersecretary of
13 the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by Governor Edwin Edwards, and was
14 subsequently reappointed to the position by governors Mike Foster, Kathleen Blanco, and
15 Bobby Jindal, serving under both Democrats and Republicans, and confirmed six times by
16 the Louisiana Senate; and

17 WHEREAS, he will be remembered as the longest serving undersecretary in the
18 history of the cabinet-form of state government in Louisiana; and

1 WHEREAS, as a result of his service with excellence and honor, he was appointed
2 as secretary of the Department of Natural Resources by Governor Jindal from June to
3 November 2010; and

4 WHEREAS, during his tenure as secretary Louisiana faced one of the worst natural
5 disasters in its history, with the explosion and sinking of the Deep Water Horizon drilling
6 rig under contract to British Petroleum America, and the resulting massive oil spill in the
7 Gulf of Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, the disaster placed Secretary Harper, in the forefront of the Louisiana
9 effort, working closely with all levels of government in crafting and implementing a unified
10 response to that disaster embodying mitigation and ultimate relief, while maintaining
11 ordinary duties incumbent upon him; and

12 WHEREAS, he also served faithfully and tirelessly as undersecretary with the
13 administrations during response and recovery efforts following hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and
14 Gustav, all of which had major impacts on the state, and worked to ensure that adequate
15 volunteers staffed emergency operation centers and emergency shelters; and

16 WHEREAS, he served as an ex officio and often designee member of the State
17 Mineral and Energy Board, he has served on the Supervisory Committee of La Capitol
18 Federal Credit Union since 1996, and is currently serving as their vice chairman; and

19 WHEREAS, his management abilities and understanding of fiscal responsibility has
20 guided the Department of Natural Resources through recurring budget crisis during troubled
21 economic times, with minimal impact on services provided and department personnel; and

22 WHEREAS, after a long and distinguished career, Mr. Harper will finally be able to
23 spend time with the loves of his life, his wife Sherry Penney Harper and their dog Wilson.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
25 does hereby commend and congratulate Robert "Bob" Harper on forty-two years of service
26 in state government, and upon his much deserved retirement, and wishes him much success
27 in all his future endeavors.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
29 Robert "Bob" Harper.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tammy Crain Waldrop.

DIGEST

Long

SR No. 133

Commends and congratulates Robert "Bob" Harper on forty-two years of service in state government and upon his much deserved retirement.