

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 95

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the governor of Louisiana and the office of community development within the division of administration to evaluate the feasibility of using Community Development Block Grant funds received from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to evaluate the feasibility of using any future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to complete the Comite River Diversion Canal Project, and to report their findings to the legislative committees on homeland security.

WHEREAS, the flooding of August 2016 that was declared a state and national disaster caused devastating destruction of property, economic losses to the state and its citizens, a public health crisis, and loss of life; and

WHEREAS, the office of community development's action plan was approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and as such has been appropriated Community Development Block Grant funding by the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana anticipates receiving Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be administered by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness; and

WHEREAS, water levels in the Comite and Amite Rivers reached record levels during the flooding of August 2016 from the extraordinary rainfall; and

WHEREAS, had the United States Army Corps of Engineers completed the Comite River Diversion Canal Project, the flooding impacts on the property within the Comite and Amite Rivers' flood plain could have been mitigated or reduced entirely; and

WHEREAS, the Comite River Diversion Canal project was authorized in 1986 and expected to be completed in 2012 and currently over \$100 million has been invested in the project and the need for funding to complete the project has never been more necessary in order to protect the region from the possibility of future catastrophic flood events.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of community development within the division of administration to evaluate the feasibility of using Community Development Block Grant funds received from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to evaluate the feasibility of using any future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to complete the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the evaluation requested in this Resolution, the office of community development can monitor and include in its findings how many homeowners utilized Community Development Block Grant funding, an estimate when the homeowner rehabilitation and reconstruction program will be completed, and the balance of funds remaining in the program at its conclusion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of community development and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness shall each submit a written report of its findings resulting from each of the evaluations requested in this Resolution to the House Special Committee on Homeland Security and the Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security no later than August 1, 2018.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE