

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY SENATORS JOHNS, MORRISH AND JOHN SMITH AND REPRESENTATIVES
ABRAHAM, DANAHAY, DWIGHT, FRANKLIN, GUINN AND HILL

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Firestone Polymers, LLC in Lake Charles on the celebration of its 75th Anniversary.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Firestone Polymers, LLC upon seventy-five years as a maker of synthetic rubber, an endeavor that began in support of the United States war effort in World War II.

WHEREAS, the Firestone Polymers, LLC plant, now located on Highway 108 in Sulphur, Louisiana, was originally built by the United States government in 1943 to produce synthetic rubber in support of the national defense effort during World War II; and

WHEREAS, by the middle of 1942, the Axis powers of Germany, Italy, and Japan controlled nearly all the world's limited supply of natural rubber located mainly in Southeast Asia, necessitating the move to synthetic rubber; and

WHEREAS, rubber was needed for military electrical wiring, tires on trucks and jeeps, Sherman tanks, and nearly every war machine; the United States government brought together a consortium of companies to improve synthetic rubber and to produce the necessary amounts of synthetic rubber; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the government and numerous chemists yielded a superior synthetic rubber, designated GRS for Government Rubber Styrene, and plants were built around the country to produce this essential commodity, including the plant in Louisiana; and

1 WHEREAS, among the items manufactured with this synthetic rubber were specialty
2 tires for combat units which were produced using the synthetic rubber made by Firestone
3 Tire and Rubber at the Louisiana plant; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1955, Firestone Tire and Rubber bought the Firestone Polymers
5 facility from the government and continued to produce synthetic rubber for a variety of
6 products, but, primarily for tires; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1988, Bridgestone Corporation purchased Firestone Tire and Rubber,
8 including the Louisiana polymers plant; and

9 WHEREAS, today the Firestone Polymers site has nearly three hundred employees
10 and produces over one million pounds of synthetic rubber per day; and

11 WHEREAS, the synthetic rubber produced at Firestone Polymers is used by global
12 customers to produce Bridgestone and Firestone tires, Bridgestone golf balls, and a variety
13 of rubber products; and

14 WHEREAS, Firestone Polymers, LLC is a vital contributor to the economic life of
15 the Lake Charles-Sulphur area and is a corporate citizen greatly valued by the people of
16 Southwest Louisiana.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
18 commend Firestone Polymers, LLC upon seventy-five years as a maker of synthetic rubber,
19 an endeavor that began in support of the United States war effort in World War II.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
21 Gene Lavengco, Chief Executive Officer and President of Firestone Polymers, LLC and
22 Kenneth Babcock, plant manager at the Louisiana facility.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Mary Dozier O'Brien.

DIGEST

SCR 15 Original

2018 Regular Session

Johns

Commends Firestone Polymers, LLC upon 75 years as a maker of synthetic rubber in
Southwest Louisiana.