

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 219

BY REPRESENTATIVES JIM MORRIS, ARMES, BAGLEY, BARRAS, BILLIOT, BISHOP, TERRY BROWN, CARMODY, CONNICK, COUSSAN, CREWS, DEVILLIER, DWIGHT, FOIL, GISCLAIR, GLOVER, GUINN, HORTON, JENKINS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LYONS, MAGEE, MCFARLAND, MIGUEZ, NORTON, REYNOLDS, STEFANSKI, WHITE, AND ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to adopt and enact the legislation to be proposed in the 115th Congress, Second Session, that would establish the Caddo Lake National Heritage Area.

WHEREAS, the Heritage Area Program is found in the Historic Sites Act, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and related statutes, and is under the jurisdiction of the United States Department of the Interior and the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act establishes a national policy for federal agencies to use measures such as financial and technical assistance to foster conditions under which our modern society and our prehistoric and historic resources can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, each national heritage area has been authorized by a specific federal statute in an effort to effectively carry out the national policy with these same statutes assigning a prominent role for the National Park Service to play in nurturing the areas and supporting their success; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Lake National Heritage Area program will expand on traditional approaches to resource stewardship by supporting large-scale, community centered initiatives that connect local citizens through preservation, conservation, and planning processes facilitated by a local coordinating entity, the Caddo Lake National

Heritage Area Commission, to provide assistance to residents to improve their quality of life by protecting their shared cultural and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Caddo Lake National Heritage Area Commission will promote the conservation of natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources, while improving the area's economic vitality, all guided by a management plan developed by the commission and approved by the Secretary of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, legislation will be filed in the 115th Congress, Second Session, that will delineate a procedure to be followed to establish the Caddo Lake National Heritage Area, including a time line; and

WHEREAS, nothing in the act establishing the Caddo Lake National Heritage Area allows for abridging the rights of any property owner including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the national heritage area; requiring any property owner to permit public access to such property or to modify any provisions of law with regard to public access or use of private lands; altering any duly adopted land use regulation or any approved land use plan; authorizing or implying the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights; diminishing the authority of the state to manage fish and wildlife including the regulation of fishing and hunting within a national heritage area; or creating any liability, or having any effect on any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on such private property; and

WHEREAS, the residents and agencies of the Caddo Lake area were so eager to have Caddo Lake designated a National Heritage Area that they embarked on the suitability and feasibility study prior to ever contacting the National Park Service to request their assistance or funding; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study examined whether Caddo Lake is nationally distinctive and evaluated alternatives for management, preservation, and interpretation of nationally important cultural and historic landscapes, sites, and structures in and around the Caddo Lake area, including its tributaries of Cypress Bayou and James Bayou in Texas and Louisiana and Black Bayou and Red Bayou along with Soda, Shifftail, and Clear Lakes in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, establishment of the Caddo Lake National Heritage Area would be of economic and cultural benefit to the Shreveport and Caddo Parish area of our great state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to adopt and enact the legislation to be proposed that would establish the Caddo Lake National Heritage Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES