

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY REPRESENTATIVES MARINO, BILLIOT, GARY CARTER, CONNICK,  
GISCLAIR, HENRY, HILFERTY, LEOPOLD, LYONS, STAGNI, STOKES,  
TALBOT, AND THOMAS

RAILROADS: Requests the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to collaborate with Rio Grande Pacific Railroad and certain federal agencies to conduct an environmental review on the quantifiable public health, safety, and welfare impact of new railroad alignment in the city of Gretna

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the  
3 Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to collaborate with the Rio Grande  
4 Pacific Railroad, the New Orleans and Gulf Coast Railway Company, the Federal  
5 Railroad Administration, the executive office of the United States Department of  
6 Transportation, and the Surface Transportation Board to conduct a thorough  
7 environmental review that accounts for the magnitude of adverse, quantifiable public  
8 health, safety, and welfare impacts associated with any new railroad alignment in the  
9 city of Gretna, Louisiana.

10 WHEREAS, the city of Gretna is acknowledged to have some of the most  
11 problematic urban rail safety conditions in the country, with some of the nation's highest  
12 concentration of unprotected rail crossings and insufficient buffers for the transport of  
13 hazardous materials; and

14 WHEREAS, the city of Gretna, and other regional partners, including the New  
15 Orleans Gulf Coast Railroad, Jefferson Parish, and Plaquemines Parish, worked together to  
16 identify a viable, mutually agreed upon realignment during a four-year Environmental  
17 Assessment for the LA 23 New Orleans and Gulf Coast Railway Relocation Project  
18 conducted by the Federal Railroad Administration; and

1           WHEREAS, any new rail alignment within the city of Gretna that does not conform  
2 to the preferred alternative should require a thorough environmental review that fully  
3 accounts for the public health and safety impacts associated with the addition of new  
4 crossings, transport of hazardous materials, impact on emergency services response and  
5 critical facilities, and community quality of life and welfare.

6           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
7 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of  
8 Transportation and Development and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
9 to collaborate with the Rio Grande Pacific Railroad, the New Orleans and Gulf Coast  
10 Railway Company, the Federal Railroad Administration, the executive office of the United  
11 States Department of Transportation, and the Surface Transportation Board to conduct a  
12 thorough environmental review that accounts for the magnitude of adverse, quantifiable  
13 public health, safety, and welfare impacts associated with any new railroad alignment in the  
14 city of Gretna, Louisiana.

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
16 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the secretary of  
17 the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the Rio Grande Pacific Railroad, the  
18 New Orleans and Gulf Coast Railway Company, the administrator of the Federal Railroad  
19 Administration, the secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, and the  
20 chairwoman of the Surface Transportation Board.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 168 Original

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Marino

Requests the Dept. of Transportation and Development and the La. Dept. of Environmental Quality to collaborate with the Rio Grande Pacific Railroad, the New Orleans and Gulf Coast Railway Company, the Federal Railroad Administration, the executive office of the United States Dept. of Transportation, and the Surface Transportation Board to conduct a thorough environmental review that accounts for the magnitude of adverse, quantifiable public health, safety, and welfare impacts associated with any new railroad alignment in the city of Gretna, Louisiana.