

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 168

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

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Louisiana Department 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 Department 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.

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Louisiana Department 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 Department 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.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES