2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 63

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

WATERWAYS/RESERVOIRS: Urges and requests the division of administration, office of community development, to consider funding the Darlington Reservoir

1   A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the division of administration, office of community development, to

3   consider funding the Darlington Reservoir.

4   WHEREAS, during the historic flooding of 2016, particularly in the Baton Rouge

5 region, eighty percent of the land that flooded was in high-risk zones; and

6   WHEREAS, of that eighty percent, according to the Federal Emergency Management

7 Agency (FEMA), only about a third of the flooded structures were located in those areas;

8 and

9   WHEREAS, FEMA viewed this lower percentage as a positive and evidence that

10 efforts to reduce flooding in high risk-areas, such as elevating buildings and property buy-

11 backs, were working; and

12   WHEREAS, the recent increase and approval of funding for the Amite River

13 Diversion Canal has increased the interest in complimentary projects to help prevent future

14 massive flooding events such as the one that was experienced in 2016; and

15   WHEREAS, the Darlington Reservoir, a dry reservoir that would only hold water

16 when homes are threatened by flood water, which was once at the forefront of flood control

17 efforts, is one such project; and

18   WHEREAS, the Darlington Reservoir would dam the Amite River on the St. Helena-

19 East Feliciana Parish line, thereby protecting communities situated further downstream from

20 increased flooding; and

1   WHEREAS, projects such as the Darlington Reservoir would have protected

2   downstream communities like Watson, Central, and Denham Springs from the massive

3   amounts of flood water they received during the 2016 flood of the region; and

4   WHEREAS, a recent report from the director of Dams, Levees, and Reservoir

5   Development for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development shows that

6   the Darlington Reservoir could have saved thousand of homes from flooding in 2016; and

7   WHEREAS, certain members of management with the United States Army Corps

8   of Engineers are investigating the Darlington Reservoir as a possible flood prevention

9   option; and

10   WHEREAS, a model run by Dewberry and Associates, using data from the newly

11   completed Amite Watershed Numerical Model and applying 2016 storm data, revealed that

12   the Darlington Reservoir project could have saved 20,500 homes and resulted in $2.2 billion

13   saved from flood damage; and

14   WHEREAS, the study found that water levels as a result of the August 2016 flood

15   would have been seven feet lower in the Watson area, six feet lower in the Denham Springs

16   area, and between one and a half and seven feet lower in the Central area; and

17   WHEREAS, a project such as the Darlington Reservoir could have saved an untold

18   number of lives and property from the vicious flood waters that ravaged the Baton Rouge

19   region and surrounding areas during the August flood of 2016.

20   THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

21   urge and request the division of administration, office of community development, to

22   consider funding the Darlington Reservoir to assist with the flood prevention efforts in the

23   Baton Rouge region.

24   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the

25   executive director of the division of administration, office of community development.

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)]

HCR 63 Engrossed   2020 Regular Session   Hodges

Urges and requests the division of administration, office of community development, to consider funding the Darlington Reservoir to assist with the flood prevention efforts in the Baton Rouge region.