

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMERO, ADAMS, BEAULLIEU, BUTLER, WILFORD CARTER, CORMIER, COX, CREWS, DESHOTEL, DEVILLIER, ECHOLS, EMERSON, FIRMENT, GADBERRY, GOUDEAU, HARRIS, HORTON, TRAVIS JOHNSON, MCCORMICK, MCMAHEN, MINCEY, RISER, SCHAMERHORN, SCHEXNAYDER, SEABAUGH, SELDERS, THOMPSON, TURNER, WHEAT, AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress and the Louisiana congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to fully fund the Livestock Indemnity Program in response to the negative impact created by losses to the Louisiana livestock industry as a result of Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Delta.

WHEREAS, Hurricane Laura made landfall along the coast of Louisiana on August 27, 2020, as a category four storm, becoming the strongest storm in Louisiana history and causing an estimated ten billion dollars in damage from the southwestern to the northern part of the state; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Laura created an estimated one billion six hundred million dollar loss to the Louisiana agriculture industry, including a loss of one million eight hundred thousand dollars to the livestock sector alone; and

WHEREAS, an estimated one hundred one thousand poultry, one hundred thirty cattle, and a dozen horses died as a direct result of the storm and the extreme health and insect conditions that followed; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana was hit directly by Hurricane Delta on October 9, 2020, causing more catastrophic damage to many of the same areas of the state as Hurricane Laura; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Delta likely created numerous additional losses to the Louisiana agriculture industry, including livestock, the extent of which will only be known after surveys and research of the industry can be conducted; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 Farm Bill authorized the Livestock Indemnity Program, within the United States Department of Agriculture, to provide benefits to eligible livestock owners or contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible loss conditions, including adverse weather, disease, and attacks; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress neglected to fund the Livestock Indemnity Program properly, creating a situation where Louisiana livestock producers are unable to utilize the program at a time when it is needed most to offset losses created by Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Delta.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress and the Louisiana congressional delegation to take such actions as are necessary to fully fund the Livestock Indemnity Program in response to the negative impact created by losses to the Louisiana livestock industry as a result of Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Delta.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE