

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 48

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

WATER/RESOURCES: Urges and requests continued support for the efforts in the Mississippi River Basin to achieve the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request continued support for the efforts by the state of Louisiana and other  
3 states in the Mississippi River Basin to work together toward achieving the goals of  
4 the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan and a reduction of the hypoxic zone off the coast of  
5 Louisiana.

6 WHEREAS, the continued formation of a large area of hypoxia, or low oxygen  
7 levels, in Louisiana's coastal waters remains a threat to the health of productive commercial  
8 and recreational offshore fisheries and the seafood industry in the state; and

9 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has been an active participant in the cooperative  
10 effort to address this problem through the federal-state Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico  
11 Watershed Nutrient Task Force since 1997, and the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan for reducing  
12 hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico since 2000; and

13 WHEREAS, this endeavor has included cooperation and engagement from twelve  
14 states along the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, along with federal agencies, industries, and  
15 private stakeholders, in a collaborative effort to reduce the average size of the annual  
16 hypoxic zone through conservation, ecosystem restoration, and nutrient management and  
17 reduction programs; and

18 WHEREAS, Louisiana and the task force are working with partners such as the  
19 twelve land-grant universities in states along the Mississippi River, including Louisiana  
20 State University and its LSU AgCenter and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and  
21 Forestry (LDAF), office of soil and water conservation, in collaboration with the United

1 States Department of Agriculture, farmers, and producers to implement programs contained  
2 in the 2018 Farm Bill, including projects in Louisiana's priority watersheds that drain to the  
3 Mississippi River, the Atchafalaya River, and the Gulf of Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is working with  
5 the LDAF, other partner agencies, and stakeholders to reduce nutrient loading in priority  
6 watersheds throughout the state through the state's nonpoint source pollution program, as  
7 well as working with industries along the Mississippi River industrial corridor between  
8 Baton Rouge and New Orleans to proactively and voluntarily reduce their nutrient releases  
9 into the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico through the Louisiana Environmental  
10 Leadership Program; and

11 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature has previously expressed its support for  
12 efforts to reduce the Gulf hypoxic zone and ensure the health of the state's offshore fisheries  
13 and waters, in resolutions such as House Concurrent Resolution No. 47 of the 2000 Regular  
14 Session, House Concurrent Resolution No. 80 of the 2007 Regular Session, Senate  
15 Concurrent Resolution No. 40 of the 2010 Regular Session, Senate Resolution No. 84 of the  
16 2012 Regular Session, House Concurrent Resolution No. 70 of the 2016 Regular Session,  
17 and House Concurrent Resolution No. 30 of the 2019 Regular Session.

18 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Legislature reaffirms this  
19 support and urges and requests continued support for these efforts by our state and others in  
20 the Mississippi River Basin to work together toward achieving the goals and targets of the  
21 Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan and a reduction of the hypoxic zone off our coast.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to  
23 Governor John Bel Edwards, Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, and each member of the  
24 Louisiana congressional delegation.

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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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