

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 98

BY REPRESENTATIVES BEAULLIEU AND THOMPSON AND SENATOR HENRY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the opposition of the Louisiana Legislature to disproportionately increasing the tax burden on natural gas, oil, and fuel industries.

WHEREAS, the natural gas, oil, and fuel industries contribute significantly to jobs in Louisiana communities and to the development of state of the art emissions reduction technologies; and

WHEREAS, these industries support nearly eleven million jobs across the country, power the nation's economy, and generate billions in revenue for federal and state governments in rents, royalties, and corporate and income tax payments, including fourteen billion dollars for state treasuries through severance taxes in 2019 alone; and

WHEREAS, these industries support more than 249,800 jobs in Louisiana and account for more than fourteen and a half billion dollars in wages in the state; and

WHEREAS, these industries contribute seventy-three billion dollars in gross domestic product for the state; and

WHEREAS, these industries contributed four and a half billion dollars in direct revenues for Louisiana in 2019, and Louisiana relies on those revenues to fund schools, infrastructure, and other critical social services; and

WHEREAS, direct industry jobs pay seven times the federal minimum wage and seventy percent higher than the national average wage; and

WHEREAS, every direct job in natural gas, oil, and fuel industries support an additional 2.7 jobs in affiliated industries, from lodging to restaurants in proximity to these industries' operations; and

WHEREAS, these industries' investments in this country have led to a fifteen percent decrease in household energy costs over the last decade, while costs for food, education, and healthcare have skyrocketed; and

WHEREAS, those cheaper energy costs are crucial to working families in our communities and across the country; and

WHEREAS, the natural gas, oil, and fuel industries should not be prevented from recovering costs that other industries are eligible for simply because they operate in a different economic sector; and

WHEREAS, the United States tax code allows industries across the manufacturing sector to recover costs related to job creation and other operational investments; and

WHEREAS, these common tax mechanisms allow natural gas, oil, and fuel industries to create jobs and offset the intangible costs of drilling; invest in our communities; fund critical education, infrastructure, and social service programs; and deliver the energy that working families rely on every day.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its opposition to singling out these natural gas, oil, and fuels industries by disproportionately increasing the tax burden on them and the constituents of this state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the United States, each member of the president's cabinet, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and to the members of the capitol press corps.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE