

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 200

BY SENATOR FRED MILLS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Scott Angelle as the United States' longest serving director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, United States Department of Interior, for his efforts regarding offshore worker safety, environmental sustainability of offshore energy, increasing economic activity, and improving conservation of offshore resources.

WHEREAS, Scott A. Angelle of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, was appointed director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), United States Department of the Interior, effective May 24, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Director Angelle, previous to his appointment, enjoyed a long and distinguished career in local and state government within Louisiana, including serving on the St. Martin Parish Police Jury, as the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, a member of the Public Service Commission, and lieutenant governor, with much of his service dedicated to fighting for environmental sustainability and for the safety and jobs of the men and women of the American energy industry; and

WHEREAS, Director Angelle continued to focus on environmental sustainability and the safety and jobs of the men and women of the American energy industry, and ultimately became the longest serving director of the United States Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, prior to his appointment, the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) added the restructuring of offshore oil and gas oversight segment to the management of federal oil and gas resources to its biennial high-risk list in its February 15, 2017, report titled, High-Risk Series: Progress on Many High-Risk Areas, While Substantial Efforts Needed on Others, GAO-17-317, Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the GAO's high-risk list is a list of programs and operations that are "high-risk" due to their vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, or that need transformation, and this list has served to identify and help resolve serious weaknesses in areas that involve substantial resources and provide critical services to the public; and

WHEREAS, in the GAO's March 21, 2017, report titled, Oil and Gas Management: Stronger Leadership Commitment Needed at Interior to Improve Offshore Oversight and Internal Management, GAO-17-293, Washington, D.C., the GAO reported that the Department of the Interior's BSEE also struggled to implement key initiatives to improve offshore oversight and internal management; and

WHEREAS, after the substantial improvements made by Director Angelle, the GAO in its March 2, 2021, report titled, High-Risk Series Report: a Report to Congressional Committees, cited Director Angelle's addressing BSEE's past long-standing deficiencies in its investigative, environmental compliance, and enforcement capabilities, and implementation of strategic initiatives to improve offshore oversight and internal management; and

WHEREAS, this March 2, 2021, report specifically cited that BSEE met all criteria for leadership commitment to restructure offshore oil and gas oversight and removes restructuring of offshore oil and gas segment from the high-risk list; and

WHEREAS, BSEE Director Angelle led a change management initiative program that encompassed more than one hundred eighty actions to implement reforms throughout the bureau and included efforts such as an internal assessment of its environmental compliance program and addressed the GAO's outstanding recommendations regarding the bureau's restructuring and related strategic initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the United States offshore energy industry is a vital segment of the nation's economy, providing two hundred seventy-seven individual jobs with an economic impact of fifty-nine billion dollars and nineteen billion dollars in payroll alone and generating substantial revenue to fund coastal restoration and hurricane protection through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA), our national parks through the Great American Outdoors Act, and wildlife conservation through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its deep appreciation and commend Louisiana native Scott Angelle for his efforts as the nation's longest serving director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, United States Department of Interior, to improve offshore worker safety, environmental sustainability of offshore energy, increase economic activity, and improve conservation of offshore resources as recognized by the Government Accountability Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Scott A. Angelle.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE