2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

A RESOLUTION

To commend Professor Nancy Rabalais on her 2021 election to the National Academy of
Sciences.

WHEREAS, Professor Rabalais joined the Louisiana Universities Marine
Consortium in 1983 and was the executive director from 2005 until 2016; in 2016, she
moved to Louisiana State University where she was appointed as the Shell Endowed Chair
in Oceanography and Wetland Studies in the LSU Department of Oceanography and Coastal
Sciences; and

WHEREAS, Professor Rabalais undertook many years of extensive research that
documented and tracked linkages connecting oxygen depletion, or hypoxia, in the Gulf of
Mexico to landscape use and the increasing levels of nitrogen and phosphorous being
deposited into the Mississippi River; her research resulted in the authorship of federal
legislation regarding the diminished water quality; and

WHEREAS, Professor Rabalais's work has also benefitted the fishing industry by
characterizing the dynamics of the northern Gulf of Mexico where, during Spring, the
oxygen levels of the water at the sea floor are so low that fish, shrimp, and crabs cannot
survive; and

WHEREAS, Professor Rabalais has received numerous, prestigious honors such as
being selected as a fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science
and the American Geophysical Union; she has also received a John D. & Catherine T.
MacArthur "Genius Grant"; and

WHEREAS, Professor Nancy Rabalais has added another incredible achievement to
her already-astonishing resumé by being among the one hundred twenty newly elected
members of The National Academy of Sciences; and

WHEREAS, The National Academy of Sciences was established by a congressional charter that was signed in 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln; the academy was created to recognize achievements in the field of science by election to its highly-exclusive membership; the academy also works with the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine to provide science, engineering, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, Professor Nancy Rabalais is most deserving of the highest recognition for being named among the members of one of the science community's most exclusive groups, The National Academy of Sciences.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Professor Nancy Rabalais on her 2021 election to the National Academy of Sciences; does hereby express sincerest gratitude to her for helping the state of Louisiana to better understand and support the ecosystems along the northern Gulf of Mexico; and does hereby extend genuine wishes that she continue to make transformative discoveries in the field of environmental science and oceanography so that she might inspire future generations of students to achieve greatness while also preserving our home.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Professor Nancy Rabalais.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES