

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 166

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

A RESOLUTION

To commend Steve Cochran for his work towards solving environmental issues in the state.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize Steve Cochran for dedicating more than thirty years of service to finding and implementing multi-disciplinary approaches to complex environmental problems facing the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Steve helped elevate Louisiana while serving as the legislative director for then-congressman, Buddy Roemer, and he fiercely advocated on the state's behalf while in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cochran took the helm of the newly-created Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation in 1990; he helped launch and implement the widely successful "Save Our Lake" campaign, which raised public awareness about the foundation's role in protecting waterways and helped stabilize the lake's water quality; that same year, he worked with the state to ban clamshell dredging in the lake, which helped restore the clam population and overall health of the lake; and

WHEREAS, Steve returned to Washington, D.C., to work with the federal Environmental Protection Agency to develop and initiate early climate policy for the country; in 1997, he began a twenty-six-year career with the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), during which he served in several key positions and advanced national climate policies regarding air quality; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cochran returned to Louisiana in 2013 and helped EDF deepen its engagement in the state; he placed particular emphasis on restoring the state's bountiful coastal ecosystem; he led a diverse coalition of partners called Restore the Mississippi River Delta; and

WHEREAS, Steve was chosen in 2017 by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve on the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation; he also served on the Equity Advisory Group for the state's Climate Action Plan that was released in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Steve rounded out his tenure with the EDF by creating a state affairs program that blended his environmental and political work and continues to forge important partnerships and environmental wins at the state level; he continues his work as a mentor on the board of directors with New Harmony High School in New Orleans, a school he helped start in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cochran is a truly inspiring individual who is most deserving of the highest recognition for his four-decade career in service of the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Steve Cochran for his work towards solving environmental issues in the state and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES