

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY SENATOR FIELDS AND REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Community Air Monitoring and Notification Task Force to study the implementation of real-time community air monitoring and notification systems for emission sources.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's mission is to provide comprehensive environmental protection in order to promote and protect human health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 1 of the Constitution of Louisiana requires the legislature to enact laws to protect, conserve, and replenish the natural resources of the state, including the air, insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people; and

WHEREAS, clean air is a necessity of life for ourselves, plant and animal life, and the entire ecosystem, and polluted air endangers life, nature, and property; and

WHEREAS, air pollution presents serious risks to health, including short-term and chronic respiratory ailments, and in extreme cases, the release of toxic chemicals carry the threat of birth defects, heart disease and other long-term illnesses, cancer, and possibly death; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is blessed with a convergence of natural resources: plentiful petroleum, natural gas, water, forests, fisheries, and avenues of transportation, including the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, industry is a major economic engine for our state, employing many of Louisiana's citizens, supporting small businesses, and contributing, both directly and indirectly, substantial revenue to the tax rolls of state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, industry and government must cooperate to ensure that Louisiana's economic productivity does not come at the expense of human health and a clean environment; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has many emission sources under the Title V Clean Air Act permit program, and reducing pollution and its negative consequences would bolster economic growth; and

WHEREAS, communities located near industrial facilities may be disproportionately impacted by air pollution and its many adverse effects; and

WHEREAS, community air monitoring systems could play a critical role in assessing air quality, identifying sources of pollution, and implementing measures to mitigate harmful emissions, thereby promoting transparency and cooperation between government, industry, and the public; and

WHEREAS, air monitoring systems can detect hazardous air pollutants and criteria pollutants, provide real-time notification to first responders, neighboring communities, and government agencies, and enable informed decision-making when emissions pose a threat to public health; and

WHEREAS, air monitoring systems are in operation throughout the country near major emission sources, demonstrating their viability and reliability; and

WHEREAS, air monitoring of industrial emissions sources is critically important to safeguard public health and protect the environment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Community Air Monitoring and Notification Task Force charged with the responsibility to study the implementation of real-time community air monitoring and notification systems, specifically the costs and benefits of implementation of such systems in communities disproportionately impacted by the negative affects of air pollution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Community Air Monitoring and Notification Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

- (1) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, or her designee.
- (2) The assistant secretary of the office of public health, within the Louisiana Department of Health, or her designee.
- (3) The secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, or his designee.
- (4) A member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

(5) A member appointed by the president of the Senate.

(6) A member appointed by the chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment.

(7) A member appointed by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality.

(8) A member appointed by the Louisiana Environmental Action Network.

(9) A member appointed by the Clean Air Task Force.

(10) A member appointed by the Louisiana Chemical Association.

(11) A member appointed by the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be entitled individually as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality or her designee shall serve as chair of the task force and shall be responsible for providing staff to assist the task force in performing its duties. The task force shall convene its first meeting by August 1, 2024. At such meeting the task force shall adopt rules of procedure, a work schedule, and any additional measures that it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a written report of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality on or before February 15, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this report shall include the following:

(1) The effectiveness and benefits of real-time community air monitoring and notification systems in alerting first responders, neighboring communities, and state regulatory agencies of air pollution threats to public health.

(2) Costs required to install, operate, and maintain such systems.

(3) Information on the types of air pollutants emitted by facilities in the state with Title V air permits, the public health impacts associated with those air pollutants, and the costs associated with those public health impacts.

(4) Recommendations for implementing community air monitoring and notification systems and the specific changes to law necessary for such implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, the executive director of the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, and the Clean Air Task Force.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES