

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORTEGO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to continue the study of Bayou Teche in St. Martin Parish and St. Landry Parish for possible inclusion into the Historic and Scenic Rivers program.

WHEREAS, Bayou Teche is a one-hundred-thirty-five mile long waterway of great cultural and historic significance in south central Louisiana where it was the main course of the Mississippi River at one time and where the river caused a delta to develop sometime between three thousand and five thousand years ago; and

WHEREAS, Bayou Teche begins in Port Barre as it draws water from Bayou Courtableau and then flows southward to meet the Lower Atchafalaya River near Morgan City, flowing through the parishes of St. Landry, St. Martin, Iberia, and St. Mary; and

WHEREAS, the name "Teche" is a Chitimacha Indian word meaning "snake", which aptly describes the bayou's twists and turns which resemble a snake's movement as the water flows towards the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Bayou Teche was the primary waterway that brought exiled Acadians from present day Nova Scotia to South Louisiana, was a focus of conflict during the American Civil War, and up until construction of the levees along the Atchafalaya River in the 1930's, served as an important route of commerce in southeast Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Bayou Teche has served as a vital link between thriving communities of south central Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico, a link that has been used by everyone from Native Americans and French explorers to nineteenth century steamboat captains and twentieth century loggers and fishermen and was a major waterway through much of south central Louisiana's history; and

WHEREAS, inclusion in the Louisiana Historic and Scenic Rivers system would greatly increase acknowledgment of Bayou Teche for its cultural and historic value and

would help to increase recreation and tourism on the bayou and in communities along the bayou; and

WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 49 of the 2012 Regular Session requested the department to study the entire length of Bayou Teche for possible inclusion into the Historic and Scenic Rivers program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to continue the study of Bayou Teche in St. Martin Parish and St. Landry Parish for possible inclusion into the Historic and Scenic Rivers program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE