

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY REPRESENTATIVE BURFORD

WATERWAYS/NAVIGATION: Requests that the United States Army Corps of Engineers maintain a minimum of 9 foot deep by 200 foot wide channel to allow safe and reliable barge transportation on the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request that the United States Army Corps of Engineers maintain, through its  
3 dredging process, a minimum of a nine foot deep by two hundred foot wide channel  
4 to allow safe and reliable barge transportation on the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway  
5 on the Red River and to maintain such navigability on the Red River twenty-four  
6 hours per day, seven days per week, three hundred sixty-five days per year, as  
7 required by Section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, P.L. 90-483 and to  
8 urge and request that the United States Army Corps of Engineers operate all local  
9 and dam facilities on the Red River twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week,  
10 three hundred sixty-five days per year.

11 WHEREAS, in 1968 the United States Congress authorized the Red River Waterway  
12 Project; and

13 WHEREAS, the purpose of the project was to enable year-round navigation on the  
14 Red River by straightening the river, stabilizing its banks and constructing five locks and  
15 dams; and

16 WHEREAS, the Port of Caddo-Bossier and others were constructed to grow  
17 commerce on the Red River, one of the region's top assets; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2007 an economic impact study concluded that the economic benefit  
19 of the project to the seven-parish region included attracting four billion six hundred million

1 dollars in new monies, increasing household earnings by two billion eight hundred million  
2 dollars, and creating an average of two thousand one hundred seven new jobs per year; and

3 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has issued a Congressional  
4 mandate to assure such navigability for commercial and recreational development; and

5 WHEREAS, a minimum nine foot deep by two hundred foot wide channel provides  
6 reliable usage of the Red River, not only for current industries, but for others considering  
7 locating to the Red River; and

8 WHEREAS, in addition, the Red River is utilized for recreation and tourism,  
9 including hosting the 2009 and 2012 Bassmaster Classic, which is another import economic  
10 development engine.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
12 urge and request that the United States Army Corps of Engineers maintain, through its  
13 dredging process, a minimum of a nine foot deep by two hundred foot wide channel to allow  
14 safe and reliable barge transportation on the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway on the Red River  
15 and to maintain such navigability on the Red River twenty-four hours per day, seven days  
16 per week, three hundred sixty-five days per year, as required by Section 101 of the River and  
17 Harbor Act of 1968, P.L. 90-483.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge,  
19 request, and recommend that the United States Army Corps of Engineers operate all lock and  
20 dam facilities on the Red River twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, three  
21 hundred sixty-five days per year.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each  
23 member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
25 Colonel Jeffrey R. Eckstein, district commander of the Vicksburg District, United States  
26 Army Corps of Engineers.

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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Burford

HCR No. 109

Urges and requests that the United States Army Corps of Engineers maintain, through its dredging process, a minimum of a 9' deep by 200' wide channel to allow safe and reliable barge transportation on the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway on the Red River and to maintain such navigability on the Red River 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, as required by the River and Harbor Act of 1968.

Urges and requests that the United States Army Corps of Engineers operate all lock and dam facilities on the Red River twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days a year.

**Summary of Amendments Adopted by House**

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill.

1. Added a provision urging and requesting that the United States Army Corps of Engineers operate all lock and dam facilities on the Red River twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days a year.
2. Made technical changes.