BY SENATOR NEVERS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to build an artificial reef in Lake Maurepas.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana has been endowed with natural beauty that draws countless sportsmen and tourists every year and should expend the necessary resources to preserve its most important sanctuaries; and

WHEREAS, Lake Maurepas is regarded as central to the Louisiana outdoor and fishing experience; and

WHEREAS, the lake is a treasured ecosystem and home to a variety of fish and wildlife, and is surrounded by camping and recreations facilities and the Maurepas Swamp Wildlife Management Area; and

WHEREAS, the lake is home to abundant largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, crappie, catfish, and striped bass and efforts should be made to protect the populations of fish so that they may be enjoyed for future generations of fisherman who come to enjoy Lake Maurepas's waters; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries coordinates and manages the Artificial Reef Program in which sustainable habitats are created to help preserve and protect healthy populations of fish; and

WHEREAS, because it is a vital part of the ecosystem of southeastern Louisiana and an important spot for recreational fisherman, an artificial reef in Lake Maurepas is necessary to help preserve its fish population.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to build an artificial reef in Lake Maurepas.

SR NO. 181 <u>ENROLLED</u>

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

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE