

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 172

BY REPRESENTATIVE REYNOLDS

ENVIRONMENT/AIR: Directs the Louisiana National Guard not to accept certain waste at Camp Minden

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To direct the Louisiana National Guard not to accept waste explosives at Camp Minden after
3 August 1, 2015.

4 WHEREAS, during the response to the explosion that occurred at the Explo Systems,
5 Inc., operations at Camp Minden in 2012, responders discovered a large quantity of the
6 waste artillery propellant, M6, improperly stored; and

7 WHEREAS, shortly after relocating the waste into buildings and bunkers on Camp
8 Minden, Explo Systems, Inc., filed bankruptcy, leaving the Louisiana National Guard with
9 ownership of fifteen million pounds of the propellant; and

10 WHEREAS, in pertinent part, federal regulation 40 CFR Part 265.382 provides that
11 the "open burning of hazardous waste is prohibited except for the open burning and
12 detonation of waste explosives. Waste explosives include waste which has the potential to
13 detonate and bulk military propellants which cannot safely be disposed of through other
14 modes of treatment."; and

15 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality adopted a similar
16 rule banning the open burning of hazardous waste but created an exemption for waste
17 explosives; and

18 WHEREAS, the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requires that all
19 hazardous wastes are managed in a manner that is protective of human health and the
20 environment; and

1 WHEREAS, open burning of waste explosives poses a danger to the health and
2 safety of citizens and threatens the economic development of the state; and

3 WHEREAS, the same concerns that resulted in prohibiting the open burning of
4 hazardous waste should be applicable to prohibiting the open burning and detonation of
5 waste explosives; and

6 WHEREAS, experts at the United States Environmental Protection Agency state that
7 based on experience and research "open burning/open detonation (OB/OD) is a relatively
8 uncontrolled, dirty, polluting technology" and that an open burn at Camp Minden, Louisiana,
9 would require "an extensive and costly clean up/remedial action"; and

10 WHEREAS, along with local leaders, elected officials, and thousands of citizens in
11 north Louisiana, the cities of Minden, Doyline, Sibley, and Bossier and Shreveport, Webster
12 and Caddo parishes, the Caddo school board, the Jenkins Community Water System, the
13 Minden Chamber of Commerce, and the Louisiana Municipal Association expressed
14 concerns about the safety of the proposed open burn; and

15 WHEREAS, the Camp Minden Dialogue Committee brought together citizens, local
16 scientists, elected officials, representatives from the Louisiana National Guard, the
17 Department of Environmental Quality, the United States Environmental Protection Agency
18 Region 6, and the United States Army for thirty days to review and evaluate alternatives to
19 the proposed open burn of the M6 propellant at Camp Minden; and

20 WHEREAS, this committee found that multiple alternative disposal technologies
21 exist; and

22 WHEREAS, likewise, over the past fifteen years the United States Department of
23 Defense Explosives Safety Board has certified a number of alternative disposal technologies
24 as safe for the destruction of hazardous wastes that are explosive; and

25 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana, the United States Environmental Protection
26 Agency, and the citizens of North Louisiana are currently working together to select and
27 implement an alternative technology for the disposal of the M6 propellant; and

28 WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana should take steps to protect its citizens by
29 preventing a dangerous situation like Camp Minden from ever occurring again.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Legislature does hereby direct
2 the Louisiana National Guard not accept waste explosives at Camp Minden brought into the
3 state after August 1, 2015.

4 BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
5 the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard.

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)]

HCR 172 Original

2015 Regular Session

Reynolds

Directs the La. National Guard not accept any more waste explosives at Camp Minden brought into the state after August 1, 2015.