

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 176

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana on the success of their oyster shell recycling program.

WHEREAS, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in 1988 with a goal to reverse the pattern of new land loss by driving bold, science-based action to rebuild coastal Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in pursuit of this goal, the CRCL advocates for the implementation of sound coastal policies and monitors coastal activities to ensure that stringent regulations and enforcement policies are maintained and by fulfilling the role as responsible stewards of Louisiana's rich coastal wetlands as the CRCL facilitates and funds actual restoration activity and works diligently to raise awareness and educate others about the importance of preserving and restoring coastal Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the CRCL works to match key financial resources with unique opportunities and diverse partnerships to leverage efforts in the fight against coastal land loss by performing a unique and effective role in forming these partnerships and directing their efforts to ensure the production of meaningful results; and

WHEREAS, the CRCL hopes to shape the way people approach development in our coastal area and the way the Mississippi River corridor is managed through a multifaceted and comprehensive approach to coastal restoration that demonstrates steadfast commitment and distinguishes the CRCL from any other civic or environmental group; and

WHEREAS, the CRCL, in June of 2014, launched a program to recycle oyster shells gathered from participating New Orleans restaurants; with the oyster shells gathered being used to aide in the restoration of oyster reefs and shoreline habitat across coastal Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, this is the first program of its kind in Louisiana and in its first twelve months it became the largest oyster shell recycling program in the nation recycling over seven hundred twenty-five tons of used oyster shells; and

WHEREAS, the recycling program is sponsored through a million dollar donation from the Shell Oil Company; and

WHEREAS, there are twelve restaurants in the New Orleans area that are currently active participants in the recycling program and those twelve restaurants accounted for more recycled oyster shells than the entire Maryland program that had been the largest in the nation prior to Louisiana entering the market and the Maryland program recycles from hundreds of restaurants throughout that state; and

WHEREAS, the CRCL chose to pursue an oyster shell recycling program to help develop oyster beds that will in turn enhance the water quality of our estuaries, to provide essential fish habitat, to build buffers against storm surge, and to replenish the oyster shell deficit that has developed because nearly sixty percent of the shell removed through the harvest of oysters is not returned to the water to encourage the growth of new oysters; and

WHEREAS, the CRCL bags the recycled oyster shells and deploys those bags along eroding shorelines to help protect shorelines and to help build reefs and the recycling program also provides shell to facilitate oyster reef aquaculture research; and

WHEREAS, the CRCL plans to continue and expand their oyster shell recycling program through contact with more restaurants and seafood processors and deploying the recycled oyster shells throughout the state's coastal areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the CRCL on the success of their oyster shell recycling program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE