

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 172

BY REPRESENTATIVES REYNOLDS, ADAMS, ARMES, ARNOLD, BARROW, BILLIOT, BROWN, HENRY BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, EDWARDS, FANNIN, FOIL, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GUINN, HARRISON, HILL, HOWARD, HUNTER, JAMES, JEFFERSON, MIKE JOHNSON, LEOPOLD, MONTOUCET, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, THIERRY, PATRICK WILLIAMS, AND WOODRUFF

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE