

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY REPRESENTATIVE ROBBY CARTER

WATER/RESOURCES: Urges and requests the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural Resources to study the use of water from natural and scenic rivers for certain uses

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, in cooperation with the
3 Department of Natural Resources, to study the effects of certain withdrawals from
4 rivers and river segments in the natural and scenic river program and to report the
5 findings to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the
6 Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

7 WHEREAS, it is the constitutional duty of the legislature to enact laws to protect,
8 conserve, and replenish the natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the
9 healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment, insofar as possible and
10 consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people; and

11 WHEREAS, in furtherance of that duty the Legislature of Louisiana enacted the
12 Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act to preserve, protect, develop, reclaim, and enhance the
13 wilderness qualities, scenic beauties, and ecological regime of the unique and diverse free-
14 flowing rivers, streams, and bayous for the present and future benefit of Louisiana citizens;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the system of natural and scenic rivers are administered for the purpose
17 of preserving aesthetic, scenic, recreational, fish, wildlife, ecological, archaeological,

1 geological, botanical, and other natural and physical features and resources found along
2 these streams or segments thereof; and

3 WHEREAS, Louisiana has the largest natural and scenic stream system in the nation
4 including more than eighty rivers or river segments; and

5 WHEREAS, beginning in the later half of the last decade this state experienced an
6 oil and gas exploration and production boom with the economic viability of using hydraulic
7 fracturing stimulation operations to produce hydrocarbons from formations such as the
8 Haynesville Shale and the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale; and

9 WHEREAS, while this boom brought welcomed economic prosperity for workers,
10 property owners, and the state, it also brought the need for massive amounts of water for
11 these thirsty operations; and

12 WHEREAS, as the United States Geological Survey estimates an average
13 Haynesville Shale well requires five million seven hundred thousand gallons of water; and

14 WHEREAS, there has been occasion where operators of hydraulic fracturing
15 stimulations operations obtained the required water from a river or river segment designated
16 as a natural and scenic river.

17 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
18 urge and request the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, in cooperation with the
19 Department of Natural Resources, to study the effects of withdrawals for oil and gas
20 operations from rivers and river segments in the natural and scenic river program and to
21 report the findings to the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and the
22 Senate Committee on Natural Resources on or before March 1, 2017.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
24 to the secretaries of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Department of Natural
25 Resources.

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 110 Original

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Urges and requests the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, in cooperation with the Dept. of Natural Resources, to study the effects of withdrawals for oil and gas operations from rivers and river segments in the natural and scenic river program and to report the findings to the oversight committees on or before March 1, 2017.