

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 229

BY REPRESENTATIVE BURRELL

FUNDS/FUNDING: Memorializes congress to direct available federal funding for the purpose of enhancing the monetary and workforce value at the General Motors/Motors Liquidation Assembly Facility including the possible use of the federal Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to direct available federal funding and resources including the possible use of the federal Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program for the purpose of enhancing the monetary and workforce values to investors or manufacturers who may be interested in utilizing the existing facilities and workforce at the General Motors/Motors Liquidation Assembly Facility.

WHEREAS, General Motors (GM), also known as Motors Liquidation, has announced its intent to cease production at the Shreveport, Louisiana General Motors/Motors Liquidation assembly facility; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport GM facility began its operation in Caddo Parish in August 1981 employing more than three thousand employees; and

WHEREAS, the GM facility has proven itself to be a major contributor to Caddo and surrounding parishes as the second largest taxpayer and at one time, the largest employer in the parish; and

WHEREAS, due to the recent downturn in the economy and financial problems in General Motors Corporation, currently, the workforce has been drastically reduced to approximately eight hundred employees; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport GM facility has made economic contributions to the city of Shreveport, the surrounding parishes, and the state for over thirty years; and

WHEREAS, most currently in 2009, GM had an annual payroll of forty-five million dollars, four million one hundred thousand dollars in property taxes, and over eighty thousand dollars in charitable contributions; and

1 WHEREAS, these contributions have been a vital contributing factor to the economic
2 well-being and existence for the city of Shreveport, surrounding parishes, and the state of
3 Louisiana; and

4 WHEREAS, located in Northeast Louisiana, East Texas, and extending into
5 Arkansas, which includes Caddo Parish in Northeast Louisiana, the Haynesville Shale is the
6 largest natural gas field in the continental United States; and

7 WHEREAS, the Haynesville Shale holds approximately two hundred and fifty-one
8 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas; and

9 WHEREAS, domestic gas is a resource that can replace imported gasoline and diesel
10 as a transportation fuel; and

11 WHEREAS, currently, the federal Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing
12 Loan Program, certain manufacturers may be eligible for direct loans for up to thirty percent
13 of the cost of re-equipping, expanding, or establishing manufacturing facilities in the United
14 States used to produce qualified advanced technology vehicles (ATV) or ATV components;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, qualified ATVs are light-duty vehicles or ultra-efficient vehicles that
17 meet specified federal emission standards and fuel economy requirements; and

18 WHEREAS, congress is currently considering the New Alternative Transportation
19 to Give Americans Solutions (H.R. 1835 and S. 1408) which provides incentives to move
20 cars and light trucks as well as heavy-duty trucks from imported gasoline or diesel to
21 domestic natural gas and encourages development of engines that reduce emissions, improve
22 performance and efficiency, and lower cost; and

23 WHEREAS, the assembly facility is one of the most modern and versatile
24 automotive production facilities in the domestic automotive industry due, in part, to the
25 facility's approximately three million square feet of assembly space under roof, an on-site
26 metal stamping plant, and electric power plant; and

27 WHEREAS, one option for the assembly facility would be to convert the facility to
28 the production of alternative fuel vehicles; and

29 WHEREAS, the facility is served by a fully functional supplier network of fourteen
30 supplier facilities; and

1 WHEREAS, the facility is in close proximity to three major area airports (Dallas,
2 Houston, and Shreveport), railroad and interstate highway systems in good working order,
3 and a navigable inland industrial port facility with access to the world market; and

4 WHEREAS, the facility currently employs a highly trained workforce that has been
5 recognized many times in the last three decades for its efficiency and production skills by
6 the GM Corporation; and

7 WHEREAS, a pool of residents in the immediate area, in addition to the currently
8 employed workforce, have prior manufacturing experience and training; and

9 WHEREAS, the economic consequences of the loss of this facility will negatively
10 impact the citizens and the city of Shreveport, the surrounding area, and the state of
11 Louisiana on many levels.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby
13 memorializes the president of the United States, the Louisiana congressional delegation, and
14 the Congress of the United States of America to use any and all powers vested in the
15 president and the United States Congress to direct any available funding from federal
16 resources for the purpose of enhancing the existing and potential monetary and workforce
17 values to investors or manufacturers who may be interested in utilizing the existing facilities
18 and workforce at the General Motors Liquidation Assembly Facility.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
20 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
21 United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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)]

Burrell

HCR No. 229

Memorializes the U.S. Congress to take actions necessary to direct available federal funding and resources including the possible use of the federal Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program for the purpose of enhancing the monetary and workforce values at the General Motors/Motors Liquidation Assembly Facility. The federal funds used may be used to manufacture advanced technology vehicles (ATV) or ATV components. ATVs are light-duty vehicles or ultra-efficient vehicles that meet specified federal emission standards and fuel economy requirements.