

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 229

BY REPRESENTATIVE BURRELL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE