

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 142

BY REPRESENTATIVE WESLEY BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Make It Right Foundation and its founder, Brad Pitt, for their contributions to New Orleans' recovery following Hurricane Katrina.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend the Make It Right Foundation and its founder, actor Brad Pitt, for providing affordable, green housing to residents of the city of New Orleans in the post-Katrina era; and

WHEREAS, Make It Right was founded by actor and Missourian, Brad Pitt, in late 2007 as a response to his frustration with the progress of rebuilding in New Orleans' poorest communities like the Lower Ninth Ward, which lost four thousand homes to the flooding that followed Hurricane Katrina in 2005; and

WHEREAS, when Brad Pitt formed Make It Right, he made a promise to help rebuild the Lower Ninth Ward neighborhood by developing at least one hundred fifty safe, green, and affordable homes for working families; and

WHEREAS, since he made his monumental promise, Make It Right and some of the world's most renowned architects have designed and constructed seventy-five homes in the Lower Ninth Ward, establishing new standards for affordable, energy efficient, single-family homes; and

WHEREAS, as the anchor for redevelopment in the Lower Ninth Ward, Make It Right's homes have been a catalyst for the rebirth of a neighborhood that is now recognized as "the largest and greenest neighborhood of single family homes in the world" by the United States Green Building Council; and

WHEREAS, Make It Right's work is a symbol of New Orleans' emerging leadership in green development; the organization shares the lessons it has learned with other projects around the world in an effort to make sustainable homes a reality in other low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, Make It Right's rebuilding effort has a broad and lasting social impact, proving what can be accomplished when companies and individuals come together to collectively support the people of a great American city; and

WHEREAS, for nearly seven heartbreaking years since Hurricane Katrina, many Lower Ninth Ward families have struggled to make ends meet and find a way back home; and

WHEREAS, since they have moved home, Make It Right families have enjoyed significantly lower monthly utility payments, cleaner air, chemical-free homes, and, most of all, reconnecting with friends and family in their beloved neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Make It Right has proven that it is possible to build safe, healthy, and energy-efficient homes that are also affordable; and

WHEREAS, Make It Right is a real-world training program for local tradespeople and businesses, helping position New Orleans at the center of the movement toward sustainable construction; and

WHEREAS, in addition to approaching completion of its first one hundred fifty homes in New Orleans, Make It Right has begun developing projects in Newark, Kansas City, and other United States communities in need; and

WHEREAS, since 2007, Make it Right has turned a tragedy into an opportunity by helping countless Louisiana families return to safe and sustainable homes and helping the city of New Orleans transition into a twenty-first century city; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Louisiana take pride in the fact that Brad Pitt and his family have chosen to establish a home in the great city of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the Make it Right Foundation merits a special measure of commendation for its extraordinary contributions to the city of New Orleans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Brad Pitt and the Make it Right Foundation for providing affordable, green housing to residents of the city of New Orleans and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous honor and pride that Mr. Pitt and the entire Make It Right family bring to the city of New Orleans, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Brad Pitt.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES