

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 181

BY REPRESENTATIVE MINCEY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the office of community development to work with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative to create an independent watershed region for the Amite River Basin.

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana created the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District by Act No. 896 of the 1981 Regular Session of the Legislature to function as the floodplain manager and coordinator of flood risk reduction in the basin; and

WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin is comprised of the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, and St. James; and

WHEREAS, all of these parishes were declared disaster areas in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin includes the most populous parish in the state and two of the fastest growing parishes in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the region includes three of the most impacted parishes in all of the 2016 floods, one of these parishes experienced three presidential disaster declarations within an eleven month span; and

WHEREAS, building on an early investigation into innovative solutions, Governor John Bel Edwards launched the Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI), governed by the Council on Watershed Management, to reform the state's approach to flood mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the LWI is pursuing a holistic approach to watershed management, one that goes beyond conventional mitigation measures and incorporates nature-based solutions; and

WHEREAS, it is important that a system of management be developed for the various watersheds in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the LWI currently has eight watershed regions; and

WHEREAS, the most significant impact of the great floods of 2016 was within the Amite River Basin, and it is imperative to move forward with management of the Amite River Basin before the next flood event; and

WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin is currently located in region seven along with several other parishes that are not within the basin; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of flood risk, present and future project development, prolific data analysis, and watershed-based governance, the Amite River Basin must exist as its own region within the Watershed Initiative.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of community development to work with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative to create an independent watershed region for the Amite River Basin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the office of community development and the regional watershed coordinator for region seven of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES