

2016 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY REPRESENTATIVES GLOVER, BAGLEY, CARMODY, COX, JEFFERSON,
JENKINS, MIKE JOHNSON, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, AND SEABAUGH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the House Committee on Commerce to study the state of the automotive manufacturing industry in the state of Louisiana since the onset of the most recent worldwide economic turndown.

WHEREAS, during the late 2000s, a recession of a global scale adversely affected the economy of the United States; and

WHEREAS, such adverse effects were manifested as an overall decline in economic activity resulting in a loss of industry and consumer wealth, the scarce availability of credit, and subsequently, the realization of sharp cutbacks in consumer spending; and

WHEREAS, the national automobile industry, and the automobile industry in this state, experienced declining automobile sales and the substantial loss of employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, perpetual declining sales and employment loss lead to the 2009 bankruptcy of the General Motors Corporation, and by 2012, a complete cessation of automobile manufacturing at the General Motors Shreveport plant, which for more than thirty years was a generator of jobs and economic opportunity in this state; and

WHEREAS, after the bankruptcy of General Motors, the Shreveport plant was assumed by the Revitalizing Auto Communities Environmental Response Trust (RACER) that was created by the United States Bankruptcy Court to clean up and position for redevelopment the properties and other facilities owned by the former General Motors Corporation; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, in efforts to rebuild, reposition, and revitalize the state's hard-hit automobile industry, certain agreements were reached by RACER and particular

automobile manufacturers for the production of certain vehicles at the former General Motors Shreveport plant; and

WHEREAS, such automobile production was expected to commence by the end of 2015, yielding the expectation for economic stimulation and the creation of thousands of potential jobs; and

WHEREAS, as of 2016, prior agreements for automobile production have yet to materialize, and the state has an interest in creating transparency and uncovering any pertinent explanations as to why those agreements have not come to fruition, as such agreements for automobile manufacturing in Louisiana can only serve to positively benefit the overall economy and citizenry of this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the House Committee on Commerce to do all of the following:

(1) Study the state of the automotive manufacturing industry in the state of Louisiana since the onset of the most recent worldwide economic turndown that began in 2008.

(2) Investigate and report on the activities of RACER in the state of Louisiana.

(3) Tour and assess the current condition and circumstances of any Louisiana based properties either currently or previously under the control and supervision of RACER in the state of Louisiana.

(4) Take testimony from local, regional, and state officials and economic development stakeholders regarding barriers and obstacles impacting the ability to effectively market facilities either currently or previously under the control of RACER.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House Committee on Commerce shall report its findings to the House of Representatives prior to the convening of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES