

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

BY SENATORS CHAISSON AND WALSWORTH AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAMSON, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, AUBERT, AUSTIN BADON, BOBBY BADON, BALDONE, BARRAS, BARROW, BILLIOT, BROSSETT, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANDLER, CHANEY, CONNICK, CORTEZ, CROMER, DANAHAY, DIXON, DOERGE, DOVE, DOWNS, EDWARDS, ELLINGTON, FANNIN, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GALLOT, GEYMAN, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARDY, HARRISON, HAZEL, HENDERSON, HENRY, HILL, HINES, HOFFMANN, HOWARD, HUTTER, GIROD JACKSON, MICHAEL JACKSON, JOHNSON, ROSALIND JONES, SAM JONES, KATZ, KLECKLEY, LABRUZZO, LAFONTA, LAMBERT, LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LIGI, LITTLE, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MCVEA, MILLS, MONICA, MONToucET, MORRIS, NORTON, NOWLIN, PEARSON, PERRY, PONTI, POPE, PUGH, RICHARD, RICHARDSON, RICHMOND, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, ROY, SCHRODER, SIMON, SMILEY, GARY SMITH, JANE SMITH, PATRICIA SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STIAES, TALBOT, TEMPLET, THIBAUT, THIERRY, TUCKER, WADDELL, WHITE, WILLIAMS, WILLMOTT AND WOOTON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the first responders of Louisiana for their swift and effective action to combat the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

WHEREAS, a massive and deadly explosion occurred Tuesday, April 20, 2010, aboard the Transocean Deepwater Horizon oil rig located off Louisiana's coast fifty miles south of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, eleven workers died in the explosion aboard the rig and have not been recovered in the aftermath of the tragedy that continued to escalate as the fire continued out of control until the rig sank three days later in five thousand feet of water; and

WHEREAS, British Petroleum (BP) announced four days after the explosion that there was no oil leaking from the collapsed rig and that rescue efforts for the missing workers had been suspended; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local officials were informed by BP five days after the explosion that oil was now leaking from the ocean floor at a rate of one thousand barrels of oil each day; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, eight days after the explosion, BP announced that the well was now leaking at a rate of five thousand barrels of oil per day; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama and other federal officials declared the fire, sinking of the rig, and the oil spill to be an "event of national significance" on April 29, 2010; and

WHEREAS, officials at the local and state levels of government sprang into action as soon as the fire on the rig had been extinguished and began response efforts to slow or stop the oil from the deep water leak by deploying booms to collect and contain the leak, sand bag staging and filling operations, assessment teams testing water, air and seafood for traces of contaminants and release of fresh water through diversion facilities to keep the oil out of the marshes; and

WHEREAS, state administration leaders, and agency heads, law enforcement leaders at every level, and other statewide elected officials began to network and partner on solutions to the oil spill once federal authorities declared the Deepwater Horizon fire and spill to be a national emergency and Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal declared the disaster "a state of emergency" on April 29, 2010; and

WHEREAS, state and local officials worked tirelessly around the clock to prepare for a "worst-case-scenario" of the oil coming ashore in Louisiana's fragile wetlands and marshes; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana officials called local government meetings to coordinate the oil spill response as they marshaled military forces, state wildlife assets, Louisiana State Police troopers, and personnel from the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Department of Social Services, the division of administration, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Transportation and Development, the Louisiana Workforce Commission, and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness into a unified command group to accomplish the stopping of the oil leak.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend state and local first responders for their prior planning and swift action to combat the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor of Louisiana and shared with all agencies and entities at every level of government in Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES