

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 180

BY SENATOR ADLEY

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security to receive proposals on stopping the Deepwater Horizon oil leak and on the cleanup of such leak, and to forward such proposals to the appropriate state agency for analysis.

WHEREAS, some fifty miles off the Louisiana coast, the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig experienced a massive and deadly explosion and fire on April 20, 2010, that resulted in eleven deaths, before sinking and leaking oil into the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over seventy-five million gallons of oil have already leaked into the Gulf of Mexico, far exceeding the eleven million gallons of oil that resulted from the Exxon Valdez disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Deepwater Horizon oil leak is the worst oil leak in Louisiana and United States history and is the worst environmental disaster the United States has faced; and

WHEREAS, in response to the oil leak, British Petroleum ("BP") has tried for over fifty days to stop oil from spewing into the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, BP has tried to stop the oil by using: (1) a containment dome to cover the leak and funnel the oil to the surface, which was unsuccessful, (2) an insertion tube to pump oil to the surface, which at best appears to be capturing only about twenty percent of the oil, (3) the "top kill" method in which viscous drilling fluid is pumped into the leak, which was unsuccessful, and (4) the lower marine riser package cap containment system, which required cutting off the damaged riser pipe at the top of the failed blow-out preventer, and this procedure has been successful to some degree but it has not completely stopped the leak; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of BP have thus far failed to protect the Gulf Coast, especially the coastline, marshes, and estuaries of Louisiana, and its citizens and businesses, and has resulted in an economic crisis for this state, its citizens and businesses; and

WHEREAS, BP has established a phone number to allow citizens to submit alternative response technology, services, products or ideas for the oil leak; and

WHEREAS, BP has received over sixty-six thousand phone calls and another ten thousand e-mails with ideas on stopping the oil leak and enhancing cleanup operations; and

WHEREAS, after hearing complaints that BP was not responding to solicitations, the federal government established its own "suggestion box"; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard's Research and Development Center is now tasked with the duty to gather and disseminate ideas about dealing with the oil leak and cleanup; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard receives the idea and then decides which federal agency is best able to analyze the idea; and

WHEREAS, BP is working with the United States Coast Guard in sorting through all ideas received by either of them; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness has established a separate "idea" pipeline at the Business Emergency Operations Center housed at Louisiana State University to receive ideas for easing the oil crisis; and

WHEREAS, constituents and businesses are also sending ideas and suggestions on a daily basis to members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, delays in considering and testing ideas that could prove valuable in cleanup and prevention of further harm have resulted in widespread frustration and anger; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to assist in the consideration and testing of potentially valuable ideas and suggestions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security to receive proposals on stopping the Deepwater Horizon oil leak and on the cleanup of such leak, and to forward such proposals to the appropriate state agency for analysis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairman is authorized to request such assistance as may be deemed necessary from entities in the legislative branch, including the Legislative Resource Center which has been activated, entities in the executive branch of state government, and institutions of higher education to analyze any submitted proposals.

SR NO. 180

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Homeland Security.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE