

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 181

BY SENATOR CROWE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request all relevant state and federal agencies to devote all available resources to stop the flow of oil at the former site of the Deepwater Horizon rig in the Gulf of Mexico and to protect, clean, and restore Louisiana's coast, marshes, estuaries, and wildlife and fisheries, and to minimize its negative impacts on citizens and businesses; and to use all available state and federal legal means to ensure that the responsible parties are brought to justice and held fully responsible for damages, including swift and just compensation for legitimate claims of lost property, wages, life, health, and other grievances; and to ensure that a disaster like the Deepwater Horizon event that began April 20, 2010, is never repeated.

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded, killing eleven workers and subsequently sank to the bottom of the Mississippi Canyon area of the Gulf of Mexico and began gushing several thousands of barrels of oil per day; and

WHEREAS, this disaster is now recognized as the worst oil spill in the nation's history, with a conservative estimate of over 70,000,000 gallons of oil escaping into the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, despite the efforts of British Petroleum, the federal government, and many outside consultants, there has been no permanent and complete solution to the oil escaping into the Gulf; and

WHEREAS, BP's contingency plans for a massive oil spill have been shown to be less than adequate, and as evident from the current situation, the response efforts from both BP and the government have not succeeded in protecting the citizens, wildlife, and environment of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, there is a degree of risk associated with any drilling operation, and it is the state and federal government's duty to prevent, minimize, and mitigate such risk from

negatively impacting the citizens and business that they govern, as well as protecting the wildlife and environment in which they live; and

WHEREAS, the relevant regulatory agencies, including the Minerals Management Service, have been determined to have failed in their ability to regulate deepwater drilling; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration has placed a six-month moratorium on deepwater drilling while the Department of Interior reevaluates concerns with safety and environmental oversight; and

WHEREAS, it has become evident that the government's moratorium on offshore drilling may become a threat to the economy and general employment in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the oil and gas industry directly employs over fifty thousand people in Louisiana, provides good-paying jobs for hard work, and accounts for sixteen percent of our state's gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has long taken pride as an energy leader in the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, many other industries rely on the income generated by oil and gas to survive, and fishing and tourism may be negatively impacted for years as a result of incoming oil.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge all relevant state and federal agencies to devote all resources to stopping the flow of oil from the Deepwater Horizon well site, to protect, clean, and restore the coasts, marshes, estuaries, and wildlife and fisheries of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast, and to protect the health, well-being, and welfare of coastal residents from the impacts of oil and dispersants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana urges federal government use of all available legal means to ensure that the responsible parties for this disaster are held to justice and are fully accountable for the costs of response, mitigation, and restoration, and that all legitimate claims from impacted fishermen, oil workers, and business be honored and be compensated swiftly and completely, including claims for lost wages, property, health, life and other grievances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana commits itself to an investigation into the safety and environmental regulations surrounding offshore drilling, to discover whether or not those regulations are adequate and enforced in a way that will prevent, minimize, and mitigate the risks associated with exploration and production of petroleum and natural gas, whether on land or offshore.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana will set clean energy development and economic diversification as a priority for the next legislative session as a strategy to reduce the state's dependence on oil and gas, to replace jobs lost by the impacts from the Deepwater Horizon disaster and from the federal moratorium on deepwater drilling, and to secure Louisiana's place as an energy leader well into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE