

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 198

BY SENATORS MORRELL, ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the owners of The Times-Picayune to continue to publish a daily print edition of the newspaper, to commend the staff of the newspaper for steadfast dedication to excellence in journalism, and to recognize the singular place the newspaper holds in the history of New Orleans and in the lives of the citizens who rely on its daily print edition for news and information.

WHEREAS, the daily print edition of The Times-Picayune has long been a fixture in the lives of the citizens of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the newspaper is owned by Advance Publications, which is owned by the Newhouse family; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, May 24th, 2012, Advance Publications announced that beginning in the fall of 2012, the print edition of The Times-Picayune will be published on a reduced schedule of only three days a week, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday; and

WHEREAS, it was also announced that there will be a reduction in the size of the newspaper's workforce, which is composed of extremely talented and loyal employees; and

WHEREAS, the news that The Times-Picayune will no longer be printed on a daily basis has been met with widespread shock and profound sorrow, and many citizens consider the idea of the city of New Orleans without a daily newspaper simply unfathomable; and

WHEREAS, many people who rely on the print edition of The Times-Picayune for daily news do not have access to the Internet and will be without a source for critical news and information four days a week; and

WHEREAS, for its staff's consistently exceptional work, The Times-Picayune has been the deserving recipient of numerous awards, including several Pulitzer Prizes, such as those in 2006 in the category of Public Service "for its heroic, multi-faceted coverage of

Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, making exceptional use of the newspaper's resources to serve an inundated city even after evacuation of the newspaper plant" and in the category of Breaking News "for its courageous and aggressive coverage of Hurricane Katrina, overcoming desperate conditions facing the city and the newspaper"; and

WHEREAS, The Times-Picayune, with origins dating back to 1837, is not merely a newspaper but a true institution with a passionately devoted readership spanning multiple centuries and generations; and

WHEREAS, daily delivery of The Times-Picayune is a tradition woven into the very fabric of New Orleans, and removing it from doorsteps four days a week will have a significant impact not only on the news consumption but also on the culture of the Crescent City.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the owners of The Times-Picayune to continue to publish a daily print edition of the newspaper.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate does hereby commend the staff of The Times-Picayune for steadfast dedication to excellence in journalism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate does hereby recognize and record for posterity the singular place The Times-Picayune holds not only in the annals of the history of the city of New Orleans but in the lives of the citizens who rely on its daily print edition for vital news and information.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Steven Newhouse, Donald Newhouse, Ashton Phelps Jr., and Ricky Mathews.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE