

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 61

BY SENATOR HEITMEIER

COASTAL RESOURCES. Directs local, state, and federal governmental agencies to work in close coordination, in order to minimize damage to Louisiana's natural resources caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and to utilize all available resources to protect and support Louisiana residents and businesses affected by the spill.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To direct local, state, and federal governmental agencies to work in close coordination, in
3 order to minimize damage to Louisiana's natural resources caused by the Deepwater
4 Horizon oil spill and to utilize all available resources to protect and support
5 Louisiana residents and businesses affected by the spill.

6 WHEREAS, on April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded and
7 later sank in the Gulf of Mexico; and

8 WHEREAS, the accident was reported to have been caused by a blowout, an
9 uncontrolled release of gas or oil that forces its way up a well pipe and catches fire; and

10 WHEREAS, with fire still burning days later, Coast Guard officials continued the
11 search for eleven missing crew members; and

12 WHEREAS, of the one hundred and fifteen crew members who were accounted for,
13 seventeen suffered injuries that included burns, smoke inhalation, and broken bones; and

14 WHEREAS, since the explosion, approximately forty-two thousand gallons of oil per
15 day have been leaking from the site into the Gulf of Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, the oil spill is moving closer and closer to environmentally sensitive
17 coastal areas; and

18 WHEREAS, President Obama's administration has launched a full investigation into

1 the oil rig explosion, with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Interior
2 Secretary Ken Salazar indicating devotion and every available resource to a comprehensive
3 investigation of the explosion with assistance to be given by the U.S. Coast Guard and the
4 Minerals Management Service which share in jurisdiction for the investigation; and

5 WHEREAS, British Petroleum, which owns the oil rig operated by the Swiss drilling
6 company Transocean, dispatched more than thirty ships, capable of skimming in excess of
7 one hundred and seventy thousand barrels of oil per day; and

8 WHEREAS, several oceanographers have claimed that the magnitude of the oil spill
9 is huge and could have an impact on marine life and oyster beds; and

10 WHEREAS, the Coast Guard is keeping a watchful eye on underwater activity from
11 the sunken rig; and

12 WHEREAS, the Coast Guard has prepared to set fire to portions of the growing oil
13 slick to keep the crude away from sensitive ecological areas; and

14 WHEREAS, without prompt and carefully coordinated action, the oil spill has the
15 potential to become one of the worst in U.S. history, as it is up to forty-two miles by eighty
16 miles wide, and ranges in thickness from a couple of molecules to the equivalent of layers
17 of paint; and

18 WHEREAS, with the Louisiana shrimp season due to open in less than a month,
19 geologists say the oil spill has the potential to delay or affect the 2010 season; and

20 WHEREAS, Governor Jindal has authorized state agencies to continue monitoring
21 the oil spill, while the federal government begins work to protect the Pass-A-Loutre Wildlife
22 Management and Breton National Wildlife Refuge areas; and

23 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is working closely
24 with state and federal agencies and British Petroleum to mitigate fish and wildlife resource
25 impacts; and

26 WHEREAS, partners in the oil spill response effort include but are not limited to the
27 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
28 Administration, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the Louisiana
29 Department of Natural Resources, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the
30 Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and

1 Emergency Preparedness, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and the Oiled
2 Wildlife Care Network.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
4 does hereby direct local, state, and federal governmental agencies to work in close
5 coordination, in order to minimize damage to Louisiana's natural resources caused by the
6 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and to utilize all available resources to protect and support
7 Louisiana residents and businesses affected by the spill.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
9 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
10 Administration, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the Louisiana
11 Department of Natural Resources, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the
12 Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and
13 Emergency Preparedness, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Oiled
14 Wildlife Care Network, the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United
15 States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

DIGEST

Heitmeier

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