

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 61

BY SENATORS HEITMEIER, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, CHABERT, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CLAITOR, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, GUILLORY, HEBERT, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MARTINY, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MORRELL, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, PETERSON, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To direct 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, President Obama's administration has launched a full investigation into the oil rig explosion, with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar indicating devotion and every available resource to a comprehensive investigation of the explosion with assistance to be given by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Minerals Management Service which share in jurisdiction for the investigation; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, partners in the oil spill response effort include but are not limited to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, and the Oiled Wildlife Care Network.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby direct 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.

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE