

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY SENATOR CROWE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to provide financial support for the establishment and construction of a general aviation facility in the lower portion of Plaquemines Parish.

WHEREAS, there exists a growing need and public necessity for a fixed wing airport complex located in the lower portion of Plaquemines Parish to facilitate the transfer of cargo and passengers and to encourage economic development; and

WHEREAS, the southern-most parish encapsulates the final seventy miles of the Mississippi River as it flows into the Gulf of Mexico; aptly regarded as the gateway to the Americas, it lies at a pivotal intersection capable of support and expansion of multimodal transportation, tourism, oil and gas exploration, environmental conservation, homeland security, and emergency preparedness concerns; and

WHEREAS, the public benefit of such a general aviation facility would include additional state and local tax revenues, economic stimulus, investment opportunities, and industrial inducement; and

WHEREAS, the proposed short and long-term goals are best identified by their economic outcome possibilities; and

WHEREAS, intermodal cargo transport of perishables ensures the timely shipment of the commercial seafood and agricultural commodities to distant markets; and

WHEREAS, petroleum interests rely on the efficient movement of materials and personnel to support its offshore endeavors in mineral production and in transportation of oil and gas from drilling platforms, pipeline terminals, and salt dome reservoirs; plus the close proximity required of oil spill responders to protect pristine environments; and

WHEREAS, as the keystone to Sportsman's Paradise, this tourism mecca draws hunters, recreational anglers, who seek blue water trophies, and eco-tourists engaged in the beauty, conservation, and wonder of swamps, saltwater marshes, estuaries, and bird sanctuaries that embrace the coastline of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the parish provides a vital link in homeland security as the first line of defense for entry into the Mississippi River; while emergency preparedness may compel the use of alternative aviation facilities for quick evacuation of civilians, emergency responders, or oil rig personnel, the "Last Man Out" scenario, that occurs during hurricane season, or as part of a contingency plan if airports in the vicinity of New Orleans are compromised by flooding or levee failure; and

WHEREAS, the development of an airport complex in lower Plaquemines Parish would be an important addition to the aviation network vital to the safety and expansion of the Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, the New Orleans Regional Planning Commission has recently authorized a feasibility study to evaluate the general aviation demands for the region, site assessments, conceptual planning, cost estimates, and funding considerations; and

WHEREAS, expectations for the near future include development of Main Pass 299, the site of a liquefied natural gas facility, the creation of a port authority and a deep water gulf transfer terminal, the assimilation of historic properties, Fort Jackson and Fort St. Phillip and exploration of the eastern gulf region for prospective oil reserves.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to provide financial support for the establishment and construction of an airport complex in the lower portion of Plaquemines Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its favorable support of such an aviation infrastructure improvement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor of the state of Louisiana, members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation, Bill Nungesser, Plaquemines Parish President, and the Plaquemines Parish Council.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES