

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY SENATORS MURRAY AND GRAY

A RESOLUTION

To express the intent of the Legislature of Louisiana in support of a bid for the city of New Orleans to host the Men's National Collegiate Athletic Association Final Four Basketball Championship Tournament in the Superdome in either 2012, 2015, or 2016.

WHEREAS, the city of New Orleans and the New Orleans Local Organizing Committee is bidding for the right to host a Men's NCAA Final Four in the Louisiana Superdome in 2012, 2015 or 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) includes Tulane University, the Louisiana Superdome, the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation, the Sugar Bowl, the Greater New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Morial New Orleans Convention Center, and the New Orleans Saints; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans has proudly and successfully hosted four previous Men's Final Four Championships in 1982, 1987, 1993, and 2003; and

WHEREAS, the strong relationship between the LOC and the NCAA has developed over a total of 11 past men's and women's basketball tournament sessions; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans has consistently been a favorite destination for the Final Four teams, fans and media; and

WHEREAS, Tulane University, which has done a remarkable job of reviving its student body after they were scattered across the country in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, would serve as the host institution for this bid; and

WHEREAS, Tulane has done a great job rebuilding its athletic program after enduring a year with no home field or court; and

WHEREAS, the award of a future Final Four would provide an important economic boost to an area recovering from Hurricane Katrina, and the Final Four will be broadcast to millions of viewers world-wide, providing positive brand awareness for the city of New Orleans and State of Louisiana. In addition, hundreds of media covering the Final Four will provide worldwide publicity that is vital to our development and to our hospitality industry; and

WHEREAS, the Final Four would result in an economic impact on the State amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Final Four would again showcase the Louisiana Superdome, our State's most recognizable and famous landmark, and symbol Louisianans resolve to rebuild; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans is restoring its solid reputation as the best city for the biggest of sporting events, with the recent successes of the Sugar Bowl, the BCS Championship Game, and the NBA All-Star Game; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans is proving itself as a great sports town with the support of the Saints and the Hornets; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans has consistently stepped up for the big events to show our special brand of hospitality.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby endorses the Local Organizing Committee's bid to attract the NCAA Men's Final Four back to our state and is in enthusiastic support of those efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable C. Ray Nagin, Mayor of New Orleans, and the New Orleans Local Organizing Committee.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE