

**RESOLUTION OF THE HOUMA-TERREBONNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN OPPOSITION OF  
TERREBONNE PARISH JOINING THE LAWSUITS AGAINST THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY FOR ALLEGED  
PERMIT VIOLATIONS, LEGACY LAWSUITS OR ANY OTHER FORM OF LITIGATION  
FOR SALT WATER INTRUSION OR RISE IN SALINITY LEVELS**

WHEREAS, the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce believes that coastal erosion in Terrebonne Parish is primarily due to the diversion of the Mississippi River, the levying off of the Mississippi River, the damming of Bayou Lafourche near Donaldsonville, multiple hurricanes, erosion to Terrebonne Parish's barrier islands, and the passes between the islands evermore increasing in size and allowing salinity levels to increase in the bays, lakes, marshes, etc. for over 80 years; and

WHEREAS, the state's Coastal Master Plan, a 50-year, \$50 billion proposal, is intended to restore wetland damage and is largely funded through existing revenue streams; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Trust Fund receives \$30 million per year from royalties and severance taxes on mineral development in state waters

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, starting in 2017, will receive \$170 million annually giving Gulf states a portion of federal taxes levied on oil and gas production in federal waters.

WHEREAS, through the RESTORE Act, Louisiana is estimated to receive between \$3-7 billion of the fines and penalties paid by BP, with the possibility of an additional \$15 billion from the National Resource Damage Assessment.

WHEREAS, up to \$500 million more in annual revenue is scheduled for coastal projects in the coming years through the oil and gas industry-supported offshore revenue sharing program; and

WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana's oil and gas companies have planted more than 1 million trees in coastal areas, created miles of artificial reefs for oyster production and worked with scientists to develop cutting-edge technology to protect our environment and preserve our coast; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is safer and more environmentally conscious than ever before; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry drives the economy of Louisiana and unquestionably drives the economy of Terrebonne Parish with sales tax figures soaring to new levels increasing by more than 10 percent in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Terrebonne Parish receives \$558 million in income and tax collections directly from the oil and gas industry not including earnings from the multitude of ancillary shipbuilding, mud mixing, and construction operations; and

WHEREAS, in Terrebonne Parish, approximately 6,070 jobs are directly attributable to the oil and gas industry — not including ancillary services performed by some of our largest employers; and

WHEREAS, Terrebonne received about 13 percent (\$11.5 million) of its property tax collections, from the oil and gas industry; and

WHEREAS, legacy lawsuits have led to a significant reduction in state conventional drilling activity, approximately \$6.7 billion (in 2010 dollars) in decreased drilling expenditures, close to \$10.5 billion in decreased Louisiana economic output, over 30,000 decrease in employment opportunities in oil and gas activities and supporting jobs, and a decrease of more than \$1.5 billion in wages for those employed directly and indirectly in the oil and gas business; and

WHEREAS, from the exploration, production and service companies that find and produce needed natural resources to the pipeline companies that transport the products to the refineries that transform raw materials into fuel, Louisiana’s energy industry has been a responsible community partner for more than a century. Clearly, Louisiana’s oil and gas industry has raised the standard of living and quality of life across our state and in Terrebonne Parish.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, representing 735 businesses and organizations with almost 28,000 employees, opposes Terrebonne Parish’s participation in joining the lawsuits against the oil and gas industry for alleged permit violations, legacy lawsuits, or any other form of litigation for saltwater intrusion or rise in salinity levels.

IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Terrebonne Parish Council, the Terrebonne Parish President, published in our monthly newsletter, and posted to the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce website so that our opposition may be known.

This Resolution was unanimously passed, approved, and adopted by the Board of the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce the eighteenth day of November 2014.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted on this, the eighteenth day of November 2014.

Donald A. Hingle II – Chairman of the Board

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Suzanne Nolfo Carlos, President/CEO and Secretary of the Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board meeting of said corporation, at a regular meeting thereof, held in Houma, LA, called pursuant to due notice, on November 18, 2014, at which meeting a quorum of its members was present and acting throughout; and which resolution is still in full force and effect.

Suzanne Nolfo Carlos – President/CEO – Board Secretary

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