

## **House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment**

Minutes of Meeting  
2024 Regular Session  
April 9, 2024

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Representative Joseph A. Orgeron, vice chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Representative Brett F. Geymann, chairman  
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant  
Representative R. Dewith Carrier  
Representative Tehmi Jahi Chassion  
Representative Kimberly Landry Coates  
Representative Jason Brian Dewitt  
Representative C. Travis Johnson  
Representative Timothy P. Kerner  
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe  
Representative Jacob Jules Gabriel Landry  
Representative Shane Mack  
Representative Danny McCormick  
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron, vice chairman  
Representative Neil Riser  
Representative Jerome Zeringue

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robin Stalder, attorney  
Benjamin Westra, attorney  
Lacy Slaughter, committee administrative assistant

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:**

Cheryl Domino , sergeant at arms

**III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION****House Bill No. 696 by Representative Geymann**

Representative Geymann presented House Bill No. 696, which authorizes unitization for carbon dioxide sequestration.

Representative Geymann offered amendments in the form of a substitute bill. Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the substitute bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Chassion, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Blake Canfield, DENR, 617 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 696.

John Harmon, 426 Sena Drive, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in support of House Bill No. 696.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report House Bill No. 696 by substitute. Without objection, House Bill No. 696 was reported by substitute by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 9 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 696 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**House Bill No. 492 by Representative Geymann**

Representative Geymann presented House Bill No. 492, which provides relative to eminent domain.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to:

- (1) Add to present law providing for expropriation by legal entities certain legal entities created for the purpose of or engaged in, the transportation of carbon dioxide by pipeline for underground storage, including but not limited to connecting to an existing pipeline transporting carbon dioxide for underground storage, whether owned or operated by the same entity, and which have received a certificate of public

convenience and necessity pursuant to the provisions of proposed law (R.S. 30:1107(B)).

- (2) Specify that proposed law does not allow for the expropriation of reservoir storage rights for geologic storage of carbon dioxide, except in connection with any project as to which present law (R.S. 30:1108(B)(2)) is applicable.
- (3) Remove expropriation powers granted in present law to any domestic or foreign corporation, limited liability company, or other legal entity engaged in any activities provided in present law.
- (4) Clarify the definition of "storage operator".
- (5) Specify the duties and powers of the commissioner as it relates to eminent domain.
- (6) Provide for issuance of certificates of public convenience and necessity to each transporter of carbon dioxide applying therefore, whether or not such transporter is also the storage operator for the laying, maintaining, and operating of a pipeline for the transportation of carbon dioxide to a storage facility, and such rights necessary and incidental thereto, if after a public hearing pursuant to the provisions of present law, he determines that it is or will be in the present or future public interest to do so.
- (7) Specify that the exercise of eminent domain or expropriation powers under present law shall not allow for the expropriation of reservoir storage rights for geologic storage. This prohibition against the use of expropriation of reservoir storage rights for geologic storage shall not apply to the exercise of expropriation powers in connection with any parish as to which Paragraph (B)(2) of present law is applicable.
- (8) Make technical changes.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report House Bill No. 492 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 492 was reported with amendments by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 9 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 492 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**House Bill No. 937 by Representative Geymann**

Representative Geymann presented House Bill No. 937, which provides relative to landowner liability for carbon dioxide sequestration.

Representative Geymann offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add landowners to the list of parties who are released from liability when injection operations cease and a certificate of completion is issued.
- (3) Change the title of the proposed law regarding landowner liability from "Release of landowner liability" to "Landowner liability limitation".
- (4) Restate the liability provision of proposed law to provide that landowners are not liable for anything associated with the sequestration of carbon dioxide just because they are a landowner or have agreed to let their property be used for sequestration.
- (5) Exclude the state from the definition of "landowner".
- (6) Add a provision that nothing in proposed law will affect any contractual agreement entered into by a landowner.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Thomas Smart, LOGA, 400 Kaliste Saloom, Suite 3000, no city, state, or zip code provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 937.

Don Caffery, Natural Resources Management Assoc., 822 Harding Street, Suite 307, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in support of House Bill No. 937.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report House Bill No. 937 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 937 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill 937 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**House Bill No. 934 by Representative LaCombe**

Representative LaCombe presented House Bill No. 934, which provides for the dedication of revenue from carbon dioxide sequestration on state lands and water bottoms.

Guy Cormier, Police Jury Association of Louisiana, 707 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in support of House Bill No. 934.

Major Thibaut, Pointe Coupee Parish President, 160 East Main Street, New Roads, LA 70760, spoke in support of House Bill No. 934.

Blake Canfield, DENR, 617 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 934.

Representative Riser offered amendments to increase the dedication to parishes from carbon capture revenue on properties under the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries and Wildlife and Fisheries Commission from 15% to 30%. Representative Riser offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

John Harmon, 426 Sena Drive, Metairie, LA 70005, spoke in support of House Bill No. 934.

Representative Dewitt offered a motion to report House Bill No. 934 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 934 was reported with amendments by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 2 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 934 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**House Bill No. 774 by Representative McCormick**

Representative McCormick presented House Bill No. 774, which provides relative to eminent domain and compensation for mineral owners.

Blake Canfield, DENR, 617 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 774.

Thomas Smart, LOGA, 400 Kaliste Saloom, Suite 3000, Lafayette, LA, no zip code provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 774.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 774. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 774 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays.

Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals that did not speak are as follows: 4 in support, and 7 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 774 pursuant to House Rule 14.33.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Representative Jacob Landry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Brett F. Geymann

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: