

3-29-11
Congress



In the Name and By the Authority of The
Acadia Parish Police Jury

RESOLUTION

BY MESSRS: JOHN QUEBODEAUX AND FELTON MOREAU

A resolution expressing support for the concept of Lake Charles staying a part of a congressional district tied with Lafayette and the coastal parishes due to reapportionment of congressional representative districts.

WHEREAS, the State Legislature will going into special session between March 3, 2011 to April 4, 2011 and will be dealing with reapportionment issues involving legislative state and federal legislative districts among other related matters and it has been determined that the State of Louisiana will lose one of its seven congressional districts, **and**

WHEREAS, Acadia Parish is currently part of the 7th Congressional District which is composed of the City of Lafayette, the City of Lake Charles and the areas of Central and South West Louisiana including all of the parishes of Calcasieu, Allen, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, St. Landry and the coastal parishes of Cameron and Vermillion, **and**

WHEREAS, as currently configured the component geographic areas of the 7th Congressional District are contiguous and compact and residents thereof have historically shared a strong community of interest in terms of socioeconomics in many vital areas including but not limited to education, oil and gas production and exploration and support services related thereto (both onshore and offshore), farming, petrochemical processing and production, ports and waterways, the Intercostal Waterway, as well as strong familial and cultural connections which are reflected in the local customs related to food, music, sports and shared support for regional social activities, **and**

WHEREAS, as a result of the proximity of the geographic areas to the Gulf Coast region of the state the citizens and residents of the current geographic areas of the 7th Congressional District also share interests in terms of hurricane protection and emergency preparedness and have historically worked to meet the challenges related to maintaining and protecting the coastal wetland areas of our state, **and**

WHEREAS, the economies and residents of all areas of the current 7th Congressional District are also interconnected and interdependent with each other as a result of their shared relationship via the movement of goods, commerce and people along I-10/I-12 Corridor and the interrelated state and federal highway system connected thereto, **and**

WHEREAS, the major metropolitan areas of Lafayette and Lake Charles have historically been included together as part of the same congressional district and jointly serve to anchor and provide support for much of the socioeconomic activity in the region, **and**

WHEREAS, to configure a new congressional district which separates the major metropolitan areas of Lake Charles and Lafayette and surrounding communities would be contrary to the established legal principles which govern the reapportionment of federal legislative districts including but not limited to: compactness, contiguity, community of interest, preservation of the historic connection between political subdivisions and could make it difficult for any person elected to represent the varied socioeconomic interests of the region in the U.S. Congress, **and**

WHEREAS, keeping coastal communities together ensures effective representation for not only the region, but also the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Acadia Parish Police Jury in regular session duly convened on this the 9th day of March, 2011, that

SECTION 1: All of the above and foregoing is hereby made a part of this resolution.

SECTION 2: The Acadia Parish Police Jury does hereby request that in the redrawing of new boundaries for Congressional Districts, the Louisiana Legislature give preference and priority to maintaining the established socioeconomic relationships in the region of central and south west Louisiana and make sure that any new congressional district created for the region include the cities of Lake Charles and Lafayette as part of the same district along with the coastal areas of the state including Cameron and Vermillion Parishes.

SECTION 3: The Secretary-Treasurer of the Acadia Parish Police Jury is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of the resolution to State Representative Mike Danahay, Congressman Charles Boustany, the Honorable Rick Gallon, Chairman, House and Governmental Affairs and the Honorable Robe "Bob" Kostelka, Senate and Governmental Affairs.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Alton Stevenson, A.J. Broussard, Kermit Richard, John Quebodeaux, Thomas Sonnier, Cade Benoit, and Felton Moreau.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

ADOPTED: MARCH 9, 2011

ATTEST:

/s/ Melinda Leger
MELINDA LEGER
ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TREASURER

/s/ A. J. Credeur
A. J. CREDEUR
PRESIDENT

CERTIFICATE

I, TERRY L. LACOMBE, Secretary-Treasurer of the Acadia Parish Police Jury, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Acadia Parish Police Jury in regular session on the 9th day of March, 2011, at which a quorum was present.

GIVEN UNDER MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE and Seal of Office on this the 29th day of March, 2011.


TERRY L. LACOMBE
SECRETARY-TREASURE