



1 as "uses of state concern" that fall exclusively under the jurisdiction of state government  
2 agencies; and

3 WHEREAS, since 2013, Cameron Parish, Jefferson Parish, Plaquemines Parish, St.  
4 Bernard Parish, St. John the Baptist Parish, Vermilion Parish (Coastal Parishes), and the city  
5 of New Orleans have contracted with private legal counsel to improperly bring  
6 unprecedented enforcement actions against the oil and natural gas industry; and

7 WHEREAS, actions such as these, taken by private legal counsel on behalf of local  
8 governments, are inconsistent with the original intent of the Louisiana Legislature when the  
9 CZMA was enacted; and

10 WHEREAS, the state alone is vested with the authority to issue and regulate coastal  
11 use permits concerning uses of state concern, as defined by R.S. 49:214.25(A)(1), and the  
12 state has the sole authority to bring enforcement over these permits under CZMA; and

13 WHEREAS, local governments are limited in their ability to bring enforcement  
14 actions under CZMA as it relates to issues of local concern as defined by R.S.  
15 49:214.25(A)(2); and

16 WHEREAS, since the inception of the CZMA, over forty years ago, local  
17 government entities have never sought to assert such inappropriate widespread action over  
18 state issued coastal use permits in a manner that violates the original intent of the CZMA;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, over six years of litigation has provided no benefit for Louisiana's  
21 precious coastline; and

22 WHEREAS, these divisive and unproductive lawsuits consume limited judicial  
23 resources and put our state at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to attracting jobs  
24 and investment; and

25 WHEREAS, while the coastal zone lawsuits have failed to produce anything more  
26 than attorney's fees and detrimental impacts to our state's economic health, Louisiana oil and  
27 natural gas companies have generated more than two hundred thirty million dollars in direct  
28 funding for coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects; and

1           WHEREAS, the safe and responsible development of Louisiana's vast oil and natural  
2 gas resources supports over two-hundred sixty thousand high-paying jobs and contributes  
3 more than two billion dollars in annual state revenues; and

4           WHEREAS, the production of oil and natural gas is essential to the economy and  
5 well being of Louisiana and the United States, and addressing the critical energy and  
6 environmental needs of the state and the country requires cooperation instead of  
7 unproductive legal attacks.

8           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
9 urge and request the local officials in Cameron Parish, Jefferson Parish, Plaquemines Parish,  
10 St. Bernard Parish, St. John the Baptist Parish, Vermilion Parish, and the city of New  
11 Orleans to dismiss the coastal zone lawsuits, pursuant to La. Civil Code Procedure Article  
12 1671.

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
14 parish president, district attorney, and council or police jury of Cameron Parish, Jefferson  
15 Parish, Plaquemines Parish, St. Bernard Parish, St. John the Baptist Parish, Vermilion Parish,  
16 and to the mayor, district attorney, and city council of the city of New Orleans.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HCR 32 Original

2020 Regular Session

DeVillier

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