

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

TRANSPORTATION: To continue the Comite River Diversion Canal Task Force to study and make recommendations on the actions necessary to complete the Comite River Diversion Canal Project

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To continue the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force that was created pursuant
3 to House Concurrent Resolution No. 51 of the 2014 Regular Session of the
4 Legislature of Louisiana to study and make recommendations on actions necessary
5 to complete the construction of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.

6 WHEREAS, the Amite River and its tributary, the Comite River, are major causes
7 of catastrophic flooding in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area, particularly in the
8 northeastern part of East Baton Rouge Parish; and

9 WHEREAS, during the flood of 1983, substantial portions of the parishes of East
10 Baton Rouge, Livingston, and Ascension were inundated with flood waters; and

11 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is to divert
12 flood waters from the upper Comite River to the Mississippi River; and

13 WHEREAS, at its maximum capacity, the project will divert twenty thousand cubic
14 feet per second by gravity flow; and

15 WHEREAS, once completed, the Comite River Diversion Canal could divert fifty
16 percent of the flood waters from the upper Comite River, which would substantially reduce
17 flood stages along the lower Comite and Amite Rivers; and

18 WHEREAS, as a result, flood insurance premiums would be dramatically reduced
19 in the area, which would boost home ownership and the overall economy of the region; and

20 WHEREAS, this is a major reason why the task force should continue its work; and

1 WHEREAS, following the displacement of thousands of residents from the New
2 Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina, East Baton Rouge Parish has experienced an explosive
3 population growth and is now the most populous parish in the state, making the Comite
4 River Diversion Canal Project all the more important and urgently significant.

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
6 extend the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force to meet and make
7 recommendations to the legislature and the appropriate state and federal agencies on actions
8 necessary to complete the construction and maintenance of the Comite River Diversion
9 Canal Project, including strategies to comply with mitigation requirements and right-of-way
10 acquisitions.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be comprised of the
12 following members:

13 (1) One member shall be the member of the House of Representatives appointed
14 by the speaker of the House whose district is directly impacted by the Comite River
15 Diversion Canal Project and who shall be the chairman of the task force.

16 (2) One member shall be the member of the Senate appointed by the president
17 of the Senate whose district is directly impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal
18 Project and who shall be the vice chairman of the task force.

19 (3) One member shall be appointed by the members of the Louisiana
20 congressional delegation representing the district in which the Comite River Diversion Canal
21 Project is located.

22 (4) One member shall be the district engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of
23 Engineers, New Orleans District, or his designee.

24 (5) One member shall be the secretary of the Department of Transportation and
25 Development, or his designee.

26 (6) One member shall be the executive director of the Coastal Protection and
27 Restoration Authority, or his designee.

28 (7) One member shall be a former member of the Amite River Basin Drainage
29 and Water Conservation District board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the
30 task force.

- (1) One member shall be the member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker within whose district the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is located and who shall be the chairman of the task force.
- (2) One member shall be the member of the Senate appointed by the president within whose district the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is located and who shall be the vice chairman of the task force.
- (3) One member shall be appointed by the members of the Louisiana congressional delegation representing the district in which the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is located.
- (4) One member shall be the district engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, or his designee.
- (5) One member shall be the secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Development, or his designee.
- (6) One member shall be the executive director of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, or his designee.
- (7) One member shall be a former member of the Amite River Basin board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the task force.
- (8) One member shall be a current member of the Amite River Basin board of commissioners appointed by the chairman of the task force.
- (9) One member shall be the director of the Dept. of Public Works of East Baton Rouge Parish, or his designee.
- (10) One member shall be a homebuilder within the area impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project appointed by the president of the Louisiana Homebuilder's Association.
- (11) One member shall be a realtor in the area impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project appointed by the Louisiana Realtors Association.
- (12) One member shall be a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) appointed by the director of FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office.
- (13) One member shall be a landowner in the area impacted by the Comite River Diversion Canal Project appointed by the Louisiana Landowners Association.
- (14) One member shall be the state representative representing District 63.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Add the state representative representing District 63 as a member of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project Task Force.