

**LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**APRIL 12, 2011**  
**UNANIMOUS AGENDA**

**A. RESOLUTION:**

1. **RESOLUTION requesting support of the Congressional Clean Water Act fine dedication that directs penalties/fines paid by BP to the Gulf Coast States** and authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute and administer any and all relevant documents. (L. TOUPS FOR ADMINISTRATION)

# ITEM 1

On motion by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the following resolution was introduced and adopted;

## RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_

### **RESOLUTION REQUESTING SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CLEAN WATER ACT FINE DEDICATION THAT DIRECTS PENALTIES/FINES PAID BY BP TO THE GULF COAST STATES AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN, EXECUTE AND ADMINISTER ANY AND ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS.**

**WHEREAS,** The *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill began nearly a year ago, and while the nation's attention is no longer captivated daily by oil covered birds and turtles, the ecosystems, communities and economy of the region are still suffering – some more than others. President Obama made clear in an Executive Order that the long-term degradation of the Gulf, combined with the oil spill have left the region in peril; and

**WHEREAS,** In line with recommendations from the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, we ask that penalties paid by BP under the Clean Water Act (CWA) be directed back to the region that has suffered from decades of degradation with the BP disaster serving as the most recent and dramatic example; and

**WHEREAS,** BP and the other parties responsible for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill are liable under the CWA for penalties for each barrel of oil spilled – fines that could provide essential resources for Gulf restoration. Without Congressional action, the fines for violating the Oil Spill Pollution Act and CWA will be deposited in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and Federal Treasury, respectively, creating an unacceptable windfall for the federal government, instead of supporting the impacted communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Without this investment in restoration, the Gulf's already vulnerable communities, local economies and ecosystems – including fish and wildlife habitats – remain even more susceptible to future disasters; and

**WHEREAS,** this resolution was sponsored for Administration by Mr. Lindel Toups, Councilman, District 6; and

**WHEREAS,** it is recommended by the Administration of the Lafourche Parish Government that the Council hereby supports the effort to have a majority of the penalties to be paid by British Petroleum (BP) under the Clean Water Act (CWA) directed back to the Gulf Coast Region and authorizes the Parish President to sign, execute and administer any and all relevant documents.



**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Lafourche Parish Council convened in regular session on April 12, 2011, and does hereby support the effort to have

# ITEM 1

a majority of the penalties to be paid by British Petroleum (BP) under the Clean Water Act (CWA) directed back to the Gulf Coast Region and authorizes the Parish President to sign, execute and administer any and all relevant documents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to The Honorable Harry Reid, John Boehner, Mitch McConnell, Nancy Pelosi; Simone Theriot Maloz, Executive Director, Restore or Retreat; Lori Leblanc, GEST; Lafourche Parish Government Department of Finance, Department of Coastal Energy and Environment, and the Office of the Parish Administrator.

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

**YEAS:**

**NAYS:**

**ABSENT:**

And the resolution was declared adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

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**LOUIS RICHARD, CHAIRMAN  
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL**

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**CARLEEN B. BABIN, COUNCIL CLERK  
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL**

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I, CARLEEN B. BABIN, Council Clerk for the Lafourche Parish Council, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ adopted by the Assembled Council in Regular Session on \_\_\_\_\_, at which meeting a quorum was present.

GIVEN UNDER MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE AND SEAL OF OFFICE THIS \_\_\_\_\_,  
DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

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**CARLEEN B. BABIN, COUNCIL CLERK  
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL**

# ITEM 1

March 31, 2011

**The Honorable Harry Reid**

Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable Mitch McConnell**

Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**The Honorable John Boehner**

Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20543

**The Honorable Nancy Pelosi**

Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20543

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner, and Minority Leaders McConnell and Pelosi:

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we are writing to respectfully ask that you take urgent action this year to support restoration that helps the ecosystems, economies and communities of the Gulf region.

The *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill began nearly a year ago, and while the nation's attention is no longer captivated daily by oil covered birds and turtles, the ecosystems, communities and economy of the region are still suffering – some more than others. President Obama made clear in an Executive Order that the long-term degradation of the Gulf, combined with the oil spill have left the region in peril. **This is a make or break moment for the Gulf, and we need your leadership.**

In line with recommendations from the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, we ask that **penalties paid by BP under the Clean Water Act (CWA) be directed back to the region that has suffered from decades of degradation with the BP disaster serving as the most recent and dramatic example. This action is critical to the recovery of the environment, economies, communities and cultural resources of the region.**

The nation needs a healthy Gulf. The region is the backbone of our economy – and the financial strength of the region is intrinsically tied to its environmental well-being:

- The Gulf currently supports a \$34 billion a year tourism industry, and its fishery supports an estimated \$22.6 billion dollar in seafood, commercial and recreational fishing related activity.
- The Gulf produces 40 percent of all the seafood in the lower 48 states.
- The region is home to 10 of our nation's 14 largest ports by tonnage. More than 25 percent of the nation's waterborne exports pass through Louisiana ports alone.

BP and the other parties responsible for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill are liable under the CWA for penalties for each barrel of oil spilled – fines that could provide essential resources for Gulf restoration. Without Congressional action, the fines for violating the Oil Spill Pollution Act and CWA will be deposited in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and Federal Treasury, respectively, creating an unacceptable windfall for the federal government, instead of supporting the impacted communities. Given the massive size of this disaster, **we respectfully urge you to take action to ensure that the Clean Water Act penalties are used for ecosystem restoration in the Gulf region now.**

**Without this investment in restoration, the Gulf's already vulnerable communities, local economies and ecosystems – including fish and wildlife habitats – remain even more susceptible to future disasters.** With your leadership, we can help local Gulf businesses to grow and create new, good-paying jobs that position the region, its firms and research institutions, as a hub of innovation in restoration science and technology while creating new opportunities for dislocated and disadvantaged workers.

We look forward to working with you toward a healthier and more vibrant future for the Gulf of Mexico and our nation. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Signed,