

On motion by Jerry LaFont, seconded by a unanimous second, the following resolution was introduced and adopted;

RESOLUTION NO. 14-202

RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED HOUMA NATION'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FEDERAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE PARISH PRESIDENT TO SIGN, EXECUTE, AND ADMINISTER ANY AND ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS.

WHEREAS, the Houma Nation's earliest contact with Europeans occurred in 1699 when the Tribe was visited by Pierre Lemoyne, Sieur d'Iberville near the present site of Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, the Houma Nation was drawn into the colonial struggles between France, Spain, and England, resulting in a gradual dislocation of the tribe from its traditional homeland; and

WHEREAS, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory in 1803 and promised all Indian tribes inhabiting the newly acquired territory that their land ownership and possession would be protected and honored as such ownership was protected and honored by the former sovereigns of Spain and France; and

WHEREAS, the United States' promises were not fulfilled and in order to protect themselves from threats presented by non-Indian peoples, the Houma Nation sought refuge and safety in the remote wetlands and bayous of southern Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Houma Nation tribal members were denied a public education until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 due to their status as "Indians;" and

WHEREAS, the United Houma Nation was recognized by the State of Louisiana in 1977 by House Concurrent Resolution No. 97 of the 1977 Regular Session of the Legislature and that recognition was reaffirmed by the State of Louisiana in 1990 with Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 124 of the 1990 Regular Session of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the United Houma Nation has been in the Department of the Interior's Federal Acknowledgement Process since 1979 and its petition is still not resolved; and

WHEREAS, the United Houma Nation has been severely impacted by coastal erosion, the BP oil spill, tropical storms, and destructive hurricanes such as Katrina, Rita, Ike, Gustav, Juan, Andrew, Lili, Matthew and Isaac during the time it has spent in the Federal Acknowledgement Process; and

WHEREAS, the United Houma Nation's lack of Federal Acknowledgement is the barrier preventing the Tribe from receiving the necessary resources from the Federal Government during these times of disaster to preserve and make whole the Houma tribal communities most significantly impacted; and

WHEREAS, these repetitive natural and man-made disasters coupled with a lack of federal recognition have proven to be detrimental to the United Houma Nation communities and culture; and

WHEREAS, the United Houma Nation needs to submit this Resolution to the Department of Interior by August 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was sponsored for Administration by Mr. Daniel Lorraine, Councilman, District 9; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended by the Administration of the Lafourche Parish Government that the Council approves a Resolution to express support for the United Houma Nation's efforts to obtain Federal Acknowledgement and authorizing 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 July 22, 2014, and does hereby approve a Resolution to express support for the United Houma Nation's efforts to obtain Federal Acknowledgement and authorizing the Parish President to sign, execute, and administer any and all relevant documents; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lafourche Parish Council recognizes the United Houma Nation as a sovereign tribal nation and supports the United Houma Nation receiving federal recognition through the Department of the Interior's Federal Acknowledgement process and/or any act of Legislation by the Congress of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the: United Houma Nation, Attn: Lora Ann Chaisson, Vice Principal Chief Dist. #2, 2375 Highway 665, Montegut, LA 70377; and the Office of the Parish Administrator.

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

YEAS: Mr. Jerry Jones
Mr. Michael Delatte
Mr. Aaron Caillouet
Mr. Joseph "Joe" Fertitta
Mr. Lindel Toups
Mr. Jerry LaFont
Mr. Daniel Lorraine
Mr. Phillip Gouaux

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. John Arnold

And the resolution was declared adopted this 22nd day of July, 2014.

**DANIEL LORRAINE, CHAIRMAN
LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL**

**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. 14-202, adopted by the Assembled Council in Regular Session on July 22, 2014, at which meeting a quorum was present.

GIVEN UNDER MY OFFICIAL SIGNATURE AND SEAL OF OFFICE THIS 28TH DAY OF JULY, 2014.

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