

By: Senator(s) Wiggins, Seymour, Moran,
DeLano, Thompson, Carter, England, Jackson
(32nd), Caughman

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 545

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO HEAR THE CONCERNS
2 OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI REGARDING THE BONNET CARRÉ DISASTER
3 AND TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH THE STATE TO FIND LONG-TERM
4 SOLUTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF FUTURE DISASTERS CREATED BY
5 FRESHWATER RELEASES INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SOUND.

6 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature urges the United States
7 Congress to hear the concerns of the State of Mississippi and to
8 work collaboratively with the state to find long-term solutions
9 for the prevention of future disasters created by freshwater
10 releases from the Mississippi River into the Mississippi Sound;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers opened the
13 Bonnet Carré Spillway for a record 143 days this year to relieve
14 Mississippi River flooding, sending trillions of gallons of river
15 water into Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi Sound beyond;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, recent openings of the Bonnet Carré Spillway have
18 increased in frequency and duration and created an ecological
19 disaster in South Mississippi, causing a mixture of negative



20 effects on the state's fishing industries, tourism, environment
21 and economy; and

22 WHEREAS, the freshwater releases from the Bonnet Carré
23 Spillway have harmed our fishing communities just as hurricanes
24 and the BP drilling disaster have devastated our fisheries in
25 years past, killing 70% of the oyster population and damaging the
26 shrimp and crab harvest as well; and

27 WHEREAS, the Bonnet Carré Spillway has opened four times in
28 the past four years, and will likely open with more regularity as
29 upstream wetlands continue to be filled, increasing the volume of
30 water circulating from the Gulf into the Mississippi River and
31 Pearl River watersheds; and

32 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi desires to work
33 collaboratively with the United States Congress, United States
34 Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies to find long-term
35 solutions for the prevention of future disasters created by
36 freshwater releases into the Mississippi Sound:

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
38 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
39 we do hereby urge the United States Congress to hear the concerns
40 of the State of Mississippi and to work collaboratively with the
41 state to find long-term solutions for the prevention of future
42 disasters created by freshwater releases into the Mississippi
43 Sound.



44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
45 furnished to the President of the United States Senate, the
46 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each member
47 of the Mississippi congressional delegation and to the members of
48 the Capitol Press Corps.

