

Email 3/22/11
Carencro city Council
Re: Congress

RESOLUTION

A resolution of the Carencro City Council expressing support for the concept of keeping Southwest Louisiana, including Lafayette Parish, a part of the 7th Congressional District during the Decennial Reapportionment of Louisiana's Congressional Representative Districts.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CARENCRO CITY COUNCIL, THAT:

WHEREAS, the State Legislature will be going into special session between March 20, 2011 and April 13, 2011 for the purposes of reapportionment of congressional representative districts following the decennial census; and

WHEREAS, the City of Carencro, Louisiana, and Lafayette Parish, is currently a part of the 7th Congressional District which also includes the City of Lake Charles, and the areas of South Central and Southwest Louisiana including all of the parishes of Calcasieu, Allen, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, St. Landry, and the coastal parishes of Cameron and Vermillion; and

WHEREAS, as currently configured, the component geographic areas of the 7th Congressional District are contiguous and compact and residents thereof have historically shared a strong community of interest in terms of socioeconomic in many vital areas including but not limited to education (including two of Louisiana's universities), oil and gas production and exploration and support services related thereto (both onshore and offshore), technology, farming, petrochemical processing and production, ports and waterways, including the Intracoastal Waterway, as well as strong familial and cultural connections which are reflected in the local customs related to food, music, sports and shared support for regional social activities; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the proximity of the geographic areas to the Gulf Coast region of the state the citizens and residents of the current geographic areas of the 7th Congressional District also share interests in terms of hurricane protection and emergency preparedness and have historically worked to meet the challenges related to maintaining and protecting the coastal wetland areas of our state; and

WHEREAS, economies and residents of all areas of the current 7th Congressional District are also interconnected and interdependent as a result of their shared relationship via the movement of goods, commerce and people along the I-10/I-12 Corridor and the interrelated state and federal highway system connected thereto; and

WHEREAS, the major metropolitan areas of Lafayette and Lake Charles have historically been included together as part of the same congressional district and jointly serve to anchor and provide support for much of the socioeconomic activity in the region; and

WHEREAS, to configure a new congressional district which separates the major metropolitan areas of Lake Charles and Lafayette and surrounding communities would be contrary to the established legal principles which govern the reapportionment of federal legislative districts including but not limited to compactness, contiguity, community of interest, and preservation of the historic connection between political subdivisions, and could make it difficult for any person elected to represent the varied socioeconomic interests of the region in the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, keeping coastal communities together ensures effective representation for not only the region, but also the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CARENCRO CITY COUNCIL, that:

SECTION 1: All resolutions or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 2: The Carencro City Council do hereby request that, as a result of the redrawing of new boundaries for Congressional Districts, the Louisiana Legislature give preference and priority to maintaining the established socioeconomic relationships in the region of Central and Southwest Louisiana thereby ensuring that any new congressional district created for the region shall include the cities of Lake Charles and Lafayette as part of the same district along the coastal areas of the state including Cameron and Vermillion Parishes.

SECTION 3: The Mayor of the City of Carencro, Louisiana is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to State Representative Mike Denahay, Congressman Charles Boustany, The Honorable Rick Gallot, Jr., Chairman, House and Governmental Affairs and the Honorable Robe "Bob" Kostelka, Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee.

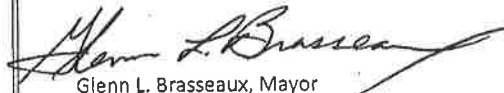
This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the results were as follows:

YEAS: Council members Antoine Babineaux, L. J. Boudreaux, Kim Guidry, J. L. Richard and Alfred Sinegal

NAYS: none

ABSENT: none

And this resolution was adopted on this 21st day of March, 2011.


Glenn L. Brasseaux, Mayor
City of Carencro