

House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
April 29, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Brett F. Geymann, chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in Room 5, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Brett F. Geymann, chair
Representative Marcus Anthony Bryant
Representative R. Dewith Carrier
Representative Kimberly Landry Coates
Representative Jason Brian DeWitt
Representative Jessica Domangue
Representative C. Travis Johnson
Representative Timothy P. Kerner
Representative Jeremy S. LaCombe
Representative Jacob Jules Landry
Representative Shane Mack
Representative Danny McCormick
Representative Joseph A. Orgeron, vice chair
Representative Neil Riser
Representative Lauren Ventrella
Representative Jerome Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Jacob Braud

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robin Stalder, attorney
Jennifer Winkler, legislative analyst
Brandy Ladmirault, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Myrtis Jarrel, sergeant at arms
Martin Mapp, sergeant at arms
Cesilee Oliver, clerk

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION**Senate Bill No. 73 by Senator Reese**

Senator Reese presented Senate Bill No. 73, which provides for sequestration of carbon dioxide (8/1/25).

Representative Jacob Landry offered a motion to invoke the Three-Minute Rule. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Tommy Faucheux, LMOGA, no witness card provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 73.

David Cresson, Louisiana Chemical Association, no witness card provided, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 73.

Representative Coates offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 73 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 73 was reported favorably by a vote of 14 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 12 in support, 12 in opposition, and 4 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 4 by Representative Owen

Representative Owen presented House Bill No. 4, which authorizes a parish governing authority to determine whether Class VI carbon dioxide injection wells may be permitted within its parish, and presented a PowerPoint.

Jonathan West, 3149 Tank Trail, Leesville, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Renee Savant, Louisiana Co2 Alliance, 116 South Newman Road, Ragley, LA 70657, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Brad LeBlanc, Bradford Minerals Corp., 2030 West St. Mary Boulevard, Lafayette, LA 70506, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Representative Coates offered amendments to:

- (1) Add storage facilities to the list of topics for which there could be a vote in each parish.
- (2) Provides that if there are conflicting votes from multiple parishes that are affected by storage facilities the majority vote takes precedence.

After discussion, Representative Coates withdrew the amendments.

Blake Canfield, DENR, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 4.

Paige Carter, no witness card provided, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 4.

Mark Zappi, University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 4.

Micheal Hecht, GNO Inc., 1100 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70163, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 4.

Will Green, LABI, 500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 4.

Representative Orgeron in the chair.

Michael Nichols, We The People, 2376 Webster Maricle Road, Pitkin, LA 70656, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Roland Hollins, Louisiana Co2 Alliance, 551 Hamilton Cemetary Road, Grant, LA 70644, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Chris Alexander, Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group, 1380 Steele Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Chair Geymann in the chair.

Scott Eustis, Healthy Gulf, 935 Gravier Street, Suite 700, no city and state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Cecilia M. Tauzin, 4 Winds Tribe, 592 Gladiolus Street, Port Allen, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Marianna Sickey, Coushatta Tribe/Jefferson Davis Parish, 22432 Hwy. 383, Iowa, LA 70647, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Linda Langley, 151 Hollingsworth Road, Box 846, Elton, LA 70532, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Russell Wilson, 1643 Good Hope Road, Anacoco, LA71403, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Avery Williams, Allen Parish, 16335 Hwy. 112, Pitkin, LA 70656, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Caleb Attwell, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Letitia Taylor, Concerned Citizens of St. John, 414 Orange Loop, LaPlace, LA 70068, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Elizabeth Soychak, Greater N.O. Interfaith Climate Coalition, 3043 Ponce de Leon Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Samara Rigmaiden, 242 Mattie Reeves, Ragley, LA 70657, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Anja West, 3149 Tank Trail, Leesville, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Shari Champagne, The Change, 5965 Alma Street, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Kim Voorhies Goodell, 304 Woodbluff Drive, Lafayette, LA 70503, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

James Hiatt, For A Better Bayou, P.O. Box 7262, no city and state provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Rev. Bellard, We The People, no address provided, Oberlin, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Rosemary Green, St. Rose Community, 243 4th Street, St. Rose, LA 70087, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Representative Orgeron in the chair.

Windy Beck, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, 9801 Lake Forest, New Orleans, LA 70121, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Chair Geymann in the chair.

Allie Johnson, Coushatta Tribe/Allen Parish, 325 Hollingsworth Road, Elton, LA, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Koishetta Ozane, Vessel Project of Louisiana, 2116 Hodges Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601, spoke in support of House Bill No. 4.

Keith Hall, 1 East Campus, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 4.

Matt Coday, Oil & Gas Workers Association, P.O. Box 14353, Odessa, TX 79768, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 4.

Baron Glass, Louisiana Green Fuels, P.O. Box 992, no city and state provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 4.

Kaci Fontenot, Louisiana Green Fuels, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 4.

Isabelle Fife, Louisiana Green Fuels, P.O. Box 1983, Columbia, LA 71415, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 4.

Lana Venable, 2163 Terrace, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 4.

Representative Owen presented a map of Vernon Parish to the committee.

Representative Mack offered a motion to report House Bill No. 4 favorably, to which Representative C. Travis Johnson objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 6 yeas and 10 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Mack, McCormick, and Ventrella voted yea. Representatives Bryant, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 64 in support and 41 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 4.

House Bill No. 601 by Representative Geymann

Representative Orgeron in the chair.

Representative Geymann presented House Bill No. 601, which provides relative to carbon dioxide sequestration.

Representative Orgeron offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove 95% consent required for carbon capture and storage (CCS) pipeline expropriation.
- (2) Prohibit expropriation for CCS pipelines.
- (3) Provide that certificates of public convenience and necessity for CCS pipelines are required for construction but do not authorize the use of expropriation.
- (4) Require notice to landowners that CCS pipelines do not have authorization to use expropriation.

Representative Orgeron offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Former Representative Woody Jenkins, 910 North Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 601 and provided a handout, Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Tommy Cryar, 3883 Deer Run Road, Lake Charles, LA 70611, spoke in support of House Bill No. 601.

Representative Riser offered a motion to move the previous question on the bill. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 16 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, Ventrella, and Zeringue voted yea.

Renee Savant, Louisiana CO2 Alliance, 116 South Newman Road, Ragley, LA 70657, spoke in support of House Bill No. 601.

Roland Hollins, Louisiana CO2 Alliance, 551 Hamilton Cemetery Road, Grant, LA 70644, spoke in support of House Bill No. 601.

Michael Nichols, We The People, 2376 Webster Maricle Road, Pitkin, LA 70656, spoke in support of House Bill No. 601.

Thomas Smart, LOGA, 400 Kaliste Saloom, Suite 3000, Lafayette, LA, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 601.

Marjorie McKeithen, Jones Walker Law Firm, 201 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70170, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 601.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report House Bill No. 601 with amendments, to which Representative Riser objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 8 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, LaCombe, Mack, McCormick, and Ventrella voted yea. Representatives Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Kerner, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 38 in support, 30 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 601.

The committee recessed at 3:23 p.m. The committee reconvened at 5:44 p.m. The committee administrative assistant called the roll.

Chair Geymann in the chair.

House Bill No. 353 by Representative Mack

Representative Mack presented House Bill No. 353, which provides relative to carbon dioxide sequestration.

Representative Mack offered amendments to:

- (1) Remove requirement that the department make certain findings regarding minerals located below a storage facility.
- (2) Reduce the types of entities that must participate in emergency and remedial response plan training.
- (3) Reduce required testing of emergency alert systems from semi-annually to annually.
- (4) Remove requirement that operators provide fire departments with necessary equipment and supplies.

- (5) Add requirement that equipment and supplies necessary for emergency response be identified in tabletop exercises prior to injection and that those identified as necessary are available to certain fire departments.
- (6) Change financial security requirements to clarify that remediation only applies to contamination caused by an operator's own storage facility.

Representative Mack offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Riser voted yea.

Steven Giambrone, Louisiana Office of Conservation, 617 North Third Street, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 353.

Richard Ezell, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 353.

Roland Hollins, Louisiana CO2 Alliance, 551 Hamilton Cemetery Road, Grant, LA 70644, spoke in support of House Bill No. 353.

Representative Dewitt offered an amendment that originated in committee to limit the requirement that operators provide emergency equipment and supplies and to require that at least one fire department in each parish with a storage facility or pipeline is provided PPE and has access to the supplies identified in pre-injection training as necessary. Representative Dewitt offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Mike Moncla, LOGA, 1331 Lakeridge, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 353.

Michael Smith, ExxonMobil, no address provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 353.

Bob Meredith, Louisiana Green Fuels, P.O. Box 1269, Columbia, LA 71418, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 353.

Tracy Evans, 9 Hobb Hill Lane, Lucas, TX, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 353.

Representative Geymann offered a motion to report House Bill No. 353 with amendments, to which Representative Orgeron objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 7 yeas and 7 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Domangue, LaCombe, Mack, and McCormick voted yea. Representatives Bryant, Dewitt, C. Travis Johnson, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 45 in support, 27 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 353.

House Bill No. 537 by Representative Schamerhorn

Representative Schamerhorn presented House Bill No. 537, which authorizes liens for victims of CO2 pipeline disasters.

Travis London, Step Up, 6680 Hanks Drive, #44, Baton Rouge, LA 70812, spoke in support of House Bill No. 537.

Patrick Riley, Louisiana Chemical Association, 30 Main Street, Suite 2040, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 537.

Tracy Evans, 9 Hobb Hill Lane, Lucas, TX, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 537.

Representative McCormick offered a motion to report House Bill No. 537 favorably, to which Representative Orgeron objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 3 yeas, 7 nays, and 1 abstention. Representatives Coates, Mack, and McCormick voted yea. Representatives Dewitt, Domangue, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted nay. Representative Geymann abstained.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 41 in support, 28 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 537.

House Bill No. 522 by Representative McCormick

Representative McCormick presented House Bill No. 522, which places a moratorium on carbon dioxide sequestration.

Representative McCormick offered an amendment to limit the moratorium to make it only apply to carbon storage on private property without landowner consent and related actions by the department. Representative McCormick offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Michael Nichols, We The People, 2376 Webster Maricle Road, Pitkin, LA 70656, spoke in support of House Bill No. 522.

Representative Orgeron in the chair.

Ray Gregson, River Region Chamber of Commerce, 390 Belle Terre Boulevard, Laplace, LA 70068, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 522.

Ben Grove, Clean Air Task Force, 543 Spanish Town Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 522.

Justin Carr, ExxonMobil, 6 West Lake Forest Ct., Conroe, TX 77384, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 522.

Bob Meredith, Louisiana Green Fuels, P.O. Box 1269, Columbia, LA 71418, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 522.

Anna Johnson, West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce, 7520 Highway 1 South, no city and state provided, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 522.

Representative McCormick offered a motion to report House Bill No. 522 with amendments, to which Representative Orgeron objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Geymann, Carrier, Coates, Mack, and McCormick voted yea. Representatives Bryant, Dewitt, Domangue, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 65 in support, 37 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 522.

House Bill No. 568 by Representative Carrier

Representative Carrier presented House Bill No. 568, which establishes public safety and accountability procedures applicable to carbon capture and storage projects.

Roland Hollins, Louisiana CO2 Alliance, 551 Hamilton Cemetery Road, Grant, LA 70644, spoke in support of House Bill No. 568.

Representative Dewitt offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 568. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 568 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Carrier, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 48 in support, 27 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 568.

House Bill No. 380 by Representative Schamerhorn

Representative Schamerhorn presented House Bill No. 380, which removes eminent domain authority for carbon dioxide sequestration.

Woody Jenkins, self, 910 North Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in support of House Bill No. 380.

Representative Dewitt offered an amendment that originated in committee to remove all portions of the bill that repeal eminent domain authority for carbon sequestration pipelines. Representative Dewitt offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, and Zeringue voted yea.

Representative McCormick offered an amendment that originated in committee to add language to the bill requiring the consent of all landowners in a carbon sequestration unit. Representative McCormick offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment, to which Representative Dewitt objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 6 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Coates, Mack, and McCormick voted yea. Representatives Dewitt, Domangue, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted nay.

Representative McCormick offered a motion to report House Bill No. 380 with amendments, to which Representative Orgeron objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 5 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Geymann, Coates, Dewitt, Mack, and McCormick voted yea. Representatives Bryant, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted nay.

Michael Nichols, We The People, 2376 Webster Maricle Road, Pitkin, LA 70656, spoke in support of House Bill No. 380.

Representative Orgeron in the chair.

Blake Trahan, Allen Parish, 343 Unkel Road, Kinder, LA 70648, spoke in support of House Bill No. 380.

Travis London, Step Up, 6680 Hanks Drive, #44. Baton Rouge, LA 70812, spoke in support of House Bill No. 380.

Caleb Atwell, no address provided, spoke in support of House Bill No. 380.

Roland Hollins, Louisiana CO2 Alliance, 551 Hamilton Cemetery Road, Grant, LA 70644, spoke in support of House Bill No. 380.

Marjorie McKeithen, Jones Walker Law Firm, 201 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70170, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 380.

Matt Coday, Oil & Gas Workers Association, P.O. Box 14353, Odessa, TX 79768, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 380.

Bob Meredith, Louisiana Green Fuels, P.O. Box 1269, Columbia, LA 71418, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 380.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 70 in support, 35 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 380.

House Bill No. 75 by Representative McCormick

Representative McCormick presented House Bill No. 75, which provides relative to compensation for pore space owners.

Representative McCormick offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 75. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 75 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 13 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Bryant, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 43 in support, 31 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 75.

House Bill No. 553 by Representative Schamerhorn

Representative Schamerhorn presented House Bill No. 553, which prohibits the exercise of eminent domain or unitization for a pipeline that carries carbon dioxide.

Michael Nichols, We The People, 2376 Webster Maricle Road, Pitkin, LA 70656, spoke in support of House Bill No. 553.

Representative McCormick offered a motion to report House Bill No. 553 favorably, to which Representative Orgeron objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 4 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Geymann, Coates, Mack, and McCormick voted yea. Representatives Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 48 in support, 37 in opposition, and 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 553.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

The minutes from the 2024 Regular Session, 2024 2nd Extraordinary Session, and 2024 3rd Extraordinary Session were presented to the committee for approval. Representative Dewitt offered a motion to approve the minutes. Without objection, the minutes were approved by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative Jacob Landry offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Geymann, Coates, Dewitt, Domangue, C. Travis Johnson, LaCombe, Jacob Landry, Mack, McCormick, Orgeron, Riser, and Zeringue voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Brett F. Geymann
House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment

Date adopted: