

email 3-18-11  
Acadiana/Southwest  
Congress

The following Resolution was offered by DAVID DUPUIS seconded by SCOTT VALLO :

RESOLUTION 7-2011

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF GUEYDAN, LOUISIANA, SUPPORTING THE CONFIGURATION OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AS IT IS PRESENTLY EXISTS, AND OPPOSING THE FORMATION OF A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT TO ONLY INCLUDE THE COASTAL PARISHES, OR PARTS OF THE COASTAL PARISHES ONLY

WHEREAS, the State Legislature will be going into session, and will be dealing with reapportionment issues involving legislative, state and federal legislative districts, among other related matters, and it has been determined that the State of Louisiana may lose one of its seven congressional districts; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gueydan, Louisiana, and Vermilion Parish, is currently part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which is composed of the City of Lafayette, 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 Vermilion; and

WHEREAS, as currently configured, the component geographic areas of the Congressional District, are contiguous and compact, and residents thereof have historically shared a strong community of interest in terms of socioeconomics in many vital areas including, but not limited to, education, oil and gas production and the exploration and support services related thereto (both onshore and offshore), farming, petrochemical processing and production, ports and waterways, 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 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District also share interest 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, the economies and residents of all areas of the current 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District are also interconnected and interdependent with each other as a result of their shared relationships via the movement of goods, commerce, and people along 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 will also greatly benefit the Town of Gueydan, Louisiana, and Vermilion Parish; and

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

WHEREAS, a congressional district, to only include the coastal parishes, or parts of coastal parishes only, would not be in the best interest of the citizens of the Town of Gueydan, Louisiana, or of Vermilion Parish, and would be contrary to the principles of keeping coastal communities together to ensure effective representation for not only the region, but also the state; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gueydan, Louisiana, in regular session convened that:

SECTION 1: All of the above and foregoing is hereby made a part of this resolution.

SECTION 2: The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Gueydan, Louisiana, does hereby request that in 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, and make sure that any new congressional district created for the region include the cities of Lake Charles, Lafayette, and Abbeville, along with the Town of Gueydan, as part of the same district, along with the coastal areas of the state including Cameron and Vermilion Parishes.

SECTION 3: The Mayor of the Town of Gueydan, Louisiana, is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to State Representative Nancy Landry, Congressman Charles Boustany, the Honorable Rick Gallot Jr., Chairman, House and Governmental Affairs and the Honorable Robe "Bob" Kestelka, Senate and Governmental Affairs.

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

YEAS: CLAUDETTE PRICE, SCOTT VALLO, DAVID DUPUIS,  
GALE SMITH & JUDE REESE

NAYS: NONE

ABSTAINED: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

And this resolution was declared adopted on this, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2011

S/Roxanna Richard  
Clerk

S/Craig Hensgens  
Mayor

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I, Roxanna S. Richard, Town Clerk, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Town of Gueydan at their meeting held on March 1, 2011, at which a quorum was present and acting.

*Roxanna S. Richard*  
Roxanna S. Richard, Clerk  
Town of Gueydan