



Legislative Bulletin.....September 14, 2006

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Democrat Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2864—The Water Resources Development Act

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Order of Business: The motion to instruct was offered yesterday, September 13, 2006, and the recorded vote was rolled to today.

Summary: The Melancon motion would instruct House conferees on the Water Resources Development Act (H.R. 2864) to agree to provisions that will protect communities located in the coastal areas of Louisiana and Mississippi from the storm surge of a category 5 hurricane.

NOTE: Motions to instruct are never binding upon conferees.

Additional Background: On July 14, 2005, the House passed H.R. 2864 by a vote of 406-14: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2005/roll378.xml>. On July 19, 2006, the Senate amended the bill and passed it by voice vote. On September 13, 2006, the House agreed by unanimous consent to disagree to the Senate amendment and request a conference with the Senate.

The House-passed version of H.R. 2864 contains more than a dozen individual projects for Louisiana and an entire title devoted to Louisiana coastal ecosystem protection. The bill also contains about a dozen individual projects for Mississippi.

The Senate-passed version of H.R. 2864 contains about 16 individual projects for Louisiana and about a half-dozen for Mississippi. One project specifically aimed at hurricane and storm damage reduction in the Senate bill is the “Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana” project with a federal cost of \$546.3 million. Furthermore, Section 1003 of the Senate-passed bill contains a variety of projects aimed at hurricane and storm damage reduction in Louisiana. The Senate bill would also amend several existing projects to incorporate the goals of Gulf Coast storm protection.

To read the RSC Legislative Bulletin on H.R. 2864, as it came to the House floor, which would authorize \$10.3 billion in mostly local water projects over ten years, please visit this webpage: <http://www.house.gov/pence/rsc/doc/07-13-05--water%20resources%20development%20WRDA.pdf>.

Committee Action: A motion to instruct does not get referred to a committee.

Cost to Taxpayers: The motion itself would yield no new costs to taxpayers.

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