

State of Louisiana

House of Representatives



AN EXPRESSION OF COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, it is fitting to recognize state associations that prioritize the needs of citizens and strive to ensure the accessibility of necessary utilities in the face of natural disasters, and the Louisiana Rural Water Association is most deserving of commendation for its preparedness and response during the 2020 hurricane season; and

WHEREAS, hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30 each year; in 2020, Hurricane Laura brought storm surges of nearly twenty feet and winds above one hundred fifty miles per hour causing massive damage across southwest Louisiana; the Louisiana Rural Water Association, or LRWA, immediately began fielding calls from utilities providers in need of generators and other means of assistance; the LRWA contacted the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and notified them that their office in Kinder, Louisiana, would be a command center for disaster response that was open to any response personnel; both the Louisiana Department of Health's staff and the Environmental Protection Agency Region VI's staff set up their own command center within the LRWA's office; and

WHEREAS, the LRWA also sought assistance from various associations from other states, including Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas; these rural water states provided vitally important equipment such as generators, by-pass pumps, leak detection equipment, backhoes, and other tools; additionally, personnel with St. Charles Parish Utilities and Fort Payne and Hanceville Utilities in Alabama provided assistance; and

WHEREAS, with the help of generators donated by the Florida Rural Water Association, the LRWA was able to provide lodging, food, and other necessities for first responders who helped manage the aftermath of Hurricane Laura; even after the out-of-state volunteers returned to their homes, the LRWA staff continued to assist communities like Creole, Cameron, Grand Chenier, and Holly Beach with service and water leak location services; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Rural Water Association is immensely valued by the state of Louisiana and its citizens, and its unmistakable dedication to all Louisianians is worthy of the highest recognition.

THEREFORE, I, Ryan Bourriaque, do hereby commend the Louisiana Rural Water Association for its preparedness and response during the 2020 hurricane season; do hereby thank both the Louisiana Rural Water Association and its out-of-state peers for the truly remarkable work that was undertaken in the wake of the 2020 hurricane season; and do hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that the Louisiana Rural Water Association continue to prosper and provide a sense of security for the great state of Louisiana.

A blue ink signature of Ryan Bourriaque, followed by a horizontal line.

Ryan Bourriaque, State Representative
District No. 47

December 15, 2020