

By: Senator(s) White

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 563

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT
2 OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH FOR ITS
3 OUTSTANDING RESPONSIVENESS DURING STATE ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES.

4 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
5 (MDEQ) Emergency Services Branch responds as needed to any
6 incident involving hazardous materials, hazardous substances, oil
7 spills or pollutants that pose a threat or potential threat to the
8 health, welfare and safety of the public and environment; and

9 WHEREAS, the Emergency Services Branch is made up of four
10 responders and two support staff: Eric Dear, Chief of Emergency
11 Services; Shannon Lowery, Ernie Shirley and Barry McMasters,
12 Response Personnel; and Terry Champion and Ken Whitten, Support
13 Staff; and

14 WHEREAS, since the events of 9/11 and the anthrax attacks in
15 2001, the Emergency Services Branch responders have served as the
16 state's frontline defense to incidents involving any potential
17 biological or chemical acts of terrorism; and

18 WHEREAS, the Emergency Services Branch, coordinating with
19 other state agencies, has handled hundreds of responses to white
20 powder scares and other potential biological/chemical acts of
21 terrorism; and

22 WHEREAS, in addition to working closely with both state and
23 federal agencies, the Emergency Services Branch works very closely
24 with local governmental entities, such as county emergency
25 management agencies, hazardous materials teams, fire departments,
26 law enforcement and health officials; and



27 WHEREAS, the Emergency Services Branch is particularly known
28 for its commitment to assist our state's industries when they are
29 involved with accidental spills or releases of hazardous
30 substances; and

31 WHEREAS, the Emergency Services Branch has developed a
32 reputation of enforcing regulatory clean-up requirements that
33 include a commonsense approach that is both reasonable and
34 protective of the public and the environment; and

35 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
36 dedicated and exemplary service from these individuals whose jobs
37 perform a vital function for the health, safety and welfare of all
38 Mississippians:

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
40 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
41 we do hereby commend the Mississippi Department of Environmental
42 Quality (MDEQ) Emergency Services Branch for its outstanding
43 responsiveness during state environmental emergencies.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
45 furnished to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
46 (MDEQ) Emergency Services Branch and made available to the Capitol
47 Press Corps.

