

By: Senator(s) Moffatt, Butler, Dearing,
Watson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 688

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
2 SUPPORT AND FUND THE COASTAL RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT THROUGH
3 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CREST) PROGRAM.

4 WHEREAS, the Coastal Restoration and Enhancement Through
5 Science and Technology (CREST) Program was established in 2001 as
6 an alliance of academic institutions within Mississippi and
7 Louisiana, whose aim is to help policymakers, planners and coastal
8 resource managers to use the latest science and best technologies
9 to ensure sustainable and productive coastal habitats and
10 communities; and

11 WHEREAS, the CREST program pursues this goal by supporting
12 applied research in innovative, practical technologies to meet the
13 urgent need for coastal restoration, and is designed to capitalize
14 on the high concentration of restoration professionals employed by
15 agencies and universities in our state and region; and

16 WHEREAS, the CREST program seeks to develop new tools and
17 refine existing techniques for coastal restoration in Mississippi,
18 to provide social and economic information of direct use to
19 managers and planners in coastal restoration, and to support the
20 development of new concepts and approaches for future restoration
21 efforts; and

22 WHEREAS, the CREST program works to support a new generation
23 of restoration scientists by funding students working in
24 restoration science and engineering; and

25 WHEREAS, CREST is the sole source of federal funding for many
26 researchers working to solve the problems of subsidence, marsh



27 loss and coastal flooding, which have added importance in the
28 aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; and

29 WHEREAS, University of Southern Mississippi Projects funded
30 by CREST include "Does habitat fragmentation and shoreline
31 hardening alter density, growth and mortality patterns of
32 fishes?"; "Assessing tectonic and associated drivers of subsidence
33 and consequent impacts on coastal marshlands: the Pearl River";
34 and "The role of root associated fungi in saltmarsh restoration
35 success"; and

36 WHEREAS, the CREST program is included in the federal budget
37 only as an earmark, and its funding is therefore highly
38 vulnerable, in contrast to its importance:

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 express our strong support for the funding of the
42 Coastal Restoration and Enhancement Through Science and Technology
43 (CREST) Program as an effort of national importance.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
45 to members of Mississippi's congressional delegation, the
46 President of the University of Southern Mississippi, the Board of
47 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning and be made
48 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

