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FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 15–06

Support for Inviting DEQ to Hold a Public Hearing on the LSU Campus about Location of a Barge Cleaning Facility Close to the South Side of LSU

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WHEREAS Tubal-Cain Marine Services is proposing to construct a barge cleaning facility in close proximity to Farr Park, near several residential communities and the LSU campus. Tubal-Cain has applied for a permit from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.^{1,2}

WHEREAS this proposed facility will operate a flare that will be emitting into the environment a number of volatile organic compounds and air pollutants,^{1,2} which, although described as “minor”, could impact the air quality of our campus and local communities where most students, faculty, and staff live.

WHEREAS LSU urges undergraduate students to live on campus. It competes for new faculty in part on the basis of its handsome campus.

WHEREAS this facility does not appear to have been widely advertised. Recent newspaper articles mention citizen concerns about not being informed and that BREC was only recently notified.^{1,2}

WHEREAS this facility will be built along the new levee bike trail that many Baton Rouge residents enjoy.

WHEREAS eagles are nesting on the adjacent Farr property.²

WHEREAS there is a possibility of growth of this facility. A Tubal-Cain spokesman indicates that he hopes that the facility will be as successful as one in Port Arthur that employs around 200¹. Currently predicted full-time employees are from 30 to 50.¹

WHEREAS some material removed from the barges may be taken by truck to be sold,¹ which will increase truck traffic on roads near LSU.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate propose to LSU administrators that DEQ be invited and urged to hold a public hearing on the LSU campus before approval. This will allow students and faculty, including a variety of relevant experts, to be informed and to take part.

References

¹ Times Picayune, Amy Wold, <http://theadvocate.com/news/11568182-123/planned-barge-cleaning-operation-near-farr-park>

² The Advocate, Diana Samuels, http://www.nola.com/business/baton-rouge/index.ssf/2015/02/barge_cleaning_facility_propos.html