

**RESOLUTION
2003-R-4**

WHEREAS, agriculture is the leading industry and largest employer in Vermilion Parish; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a capital intensive industry and vulnerable to weather extremes; and

WHEREAS, farmers in Vermilion Parish and the State of Louisiana have suffered severe economic disaster during 2002 due to weather extremes, including drought, hurricanes, and torrential rainfalls. which was compounded by historic low commodity prices; and

WHEREAS, many farmers and businesses, including sugar cane farmers and related businesses, will be unable to survive these trying economical times; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the United States Presidential Administration, under the leadership of the Honorable George W. Bush, is working with the United States Trades Representative Office towards negotiations with the Mexican government for additional imports of Mexican sugar in the United States; and

WHEREAS, these negotiations may lead to United States policy and/or legislation which could be detrimental to the sugar producing areas of the country, including the State of Louisiana and Vermilion Parish and several other States of the nation which produce large volumes of sugar.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermilion Parish Police Jury hereby express its strong opposition to any proposed Federal negotiations and/or legislation which would enable, authorize and/or increase the importation of Mexican sugar into the United States, which proposal would be detrimental to the sugar industry in the State of Louisiana and in Vermilion Parish.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Vermilion Parish Police Jury is requesting the Governor of the State of Louisiana, the United States Congressional Delegations, State Legislatures, Police Jury Association of Louisiana and all Parish Governments of the State of Louisiana to join in expressing their united opposition to any proposed Federal negotiations and/or legislation for this purpose.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Murphy "Mike" Foster, Jr., Governor of the State of Louisiana, United States Senator John Breaux, and Senator Mary Landrieu, United States Congressman Chris John, State Senator Fred Hoyt, State Representative Mickey Frith, and Representative Troy Hebert, and the Police Jury Association of Louisiana for their support of this endeavor.

I, Michael J. Bertrand, Secretary-Treasurer, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of resolution adopted by the Vermilion Parish Police Jury on the 21st day of January of 2003 at which time a quorum was present and voting.

MICHAEL J. BERTRAND
SECRETARY-TREASURER
VERMILION PARISH POLICE JURY