

**RESOLUTION
2003-R-7**

WHEREAS, Executive Order 96-47 established the Office of Urban Affairs and Development in the office of the governor, and

WHEREAS, the Office of Urban Affairs and Development in the office of the governor is to perform certain duties and functions, including to coordinate, direct, and monitor all efforts to enhance the quality of life of the disadvantaged urban residents of the state; to provide, promote, monitor, and oversee economic development programs and activities for disadvantaged urban residents; and to disseminate information to agencies which serve to enhance the health, safety, and socio-economic welfare of the disadvantaged urban residents, and

WHEREAS, present law provides for the Louisiana rural development law by establishing the Office of Rural Development in the office of the governor, headed by a director of rural development, and

WHEREAS, the present law established the functions, powers, and duties of the office which include providing information about rural development and revitalization, assisting local agencies in obtaining timely responses from state and federal agencies and in seeking alternative to grants, and assisting the governor and the legislature in the integration and formulation of state rural development revitalization policy, and

WHEREAS, the present law establishes the Rural Development Fund which is administered and used by the office of rural development to fund projects in rural areas of the state related to the revitalization of a rural area, and

WHEREAS, the economy in the Parish of Vermilion continues to struggle during these hard economic times, and

WHEREAS, the Parish of Vermilion currently receives rural development funds which are utilized for infrastructure/capital improvement projects, i. e. fire, water, sewer, drainage, recreation, etc., and

WHEREAS, the passage of House Bill No. 56 during the 2003 Regular Session would abolish the Office of Rural Development and the Office of Urban Affairs and Development and prohibit such offices from being recreated and the powers, functions, duties and responsibilities thereof from being exercised or reassigned, and

WHEREAS, the abolishment of the Rural Development Fund would be detrimental to the Parish of Vermilion.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vermilion Parish Police Jury does hereby support the continuation of the Office of Rural Development and opposes House Bill No. 56.

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, State Senator Fred Hoyt, State Representative Mickey Frith, and Representative Troy Hebert, and the Police Jury Association of Louisiana.

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 3rd day of March of 2003 at which time a quorum was present and voting.

MICHAEL J. BERTRAND
SECRETARY-TREASURER
VERMILION PARISH POLICE JURY