

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL NO. 652  
OF THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, House Bill No. 652 (HB 652), authored by Representative Stephanie Hilferty, was filed during the 2022 legislative session; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 652 seeks to amend the enabling statutes of the Sewerage and Water Board (SWBNO) by designating SWBNO as a “public utility”; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to La. R.S. 33:4071, SWBNO is a state-created public agency that is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors, presided over by the Mayor of New Orleans, and which includes a seat designated for a New Orleans City Councilmember; and

**WHEREAS**, SWBNO is a state created entity governed by a Board of Directors that includes both the Executive and Legislative branches of local government; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to La. R.S. 33:4091 the Public Works Committee of the City Council, is already statutorily empowered to request information, reports, and appearances by SWBNO and the Public Works Committee of the City Council did not request HB652; and

**WHEREAS**, SWBNO currently provides annual and quarterly reports to the City Council that contain detailed documentation regarding utility finances, operations, and customer service; and

**WHEREAS**, the SWBNO welcomes the input of the Public Works Committee and the New Orleans City Council at large in any efforts to improve revenues and service delivery at SWBNO beyond the strategic plan; and

**WHEREAS**, SWBNO currently is subject to audits by the local and federal Office of the Inspector General, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor, and Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports performed by independent auditors; and

**WHEREAS**, SWBNO’s operating and capital budgets, bonding capacity and fiscal affairs are independent from those of the City, and the utility’s revenue and debt are structured pursuant to state law designating separate enterprises for water, sewer, and drainage operations; and

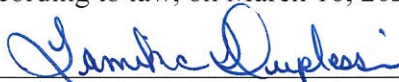
**WHEREAS**, SWBNO has made continual and significant progress over the past several years under the current governance structure and guidance from the Board of Directors, including but not limited to the completion of a five-year strategic plan, adoption and implementation of a power master plan, development of a top-tier leadership structure and team, timely submission of annual financial reports, and successful procurement grant, bond, and federal loan funding; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 652 does not in any perceptible or practical way improve upon or add accountability to the SWBNO governance structure;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, for the reasons set forth above the Directors of the Sewerage and Water Board oppose the adoption of HB 652.

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I, Tamika Duplessis, President Pro Tem of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted at the Regular Monthly Meeting of said Board, duly called and held, according to law, on March 16, 2022.



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**TAMIKA DUPLESSIS, PRESIDENT PRO TEM  
SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF ORLEANS**