

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2011-204

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3 REQUESTING THAT THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
4 FORESTRY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY THE STATE'S RIGHTS,
5 RESPONSIBILITIES, AND OPTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATURAL
6 RESOURCES THAT MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE BEDS OF THE NAVIGABLE
7 WATERS OF THE STATE AND FROM TAX-DELINQUENT LANDS.

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9 WHEREAS, Arkansas is blessed with natural resources, including those
10 resources found on public lands held in trust for the citizens of the state;
11 and

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13 WHEREAS, the Office of the Commissioner of State Lands has jurisdiction
14 over the beds of the navigable waters of the state and the natural resources
15 that may be obtained from those beds; and

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17 WHEREAS, it appears that, for a number of years, the Office of the
18 Commissioner of State Lands has received no lease payments or royalties from
19 the natural resources that lie under the beds of the navigable waters of the
20 state,

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22 NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND
24 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
25 ARKANSAS:

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27 THAT the Interim House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Economic
28 Development study the following:

29 (a) The state's rights and responsibilities regarding natural
30 resources contained in the beds of the navigable waters of the state;

31 (b) The feasibility of leasing the state's mineral interest in the
32 beds of the navigable waters of the state in an economically and
33 environmentally sound manner;

34 (c) The estimated revenue that may be obtained from leases of the
35 state's mineral interest in the beds of the navigable waters of the state and
36 the options for distributing any such revenue;

1 (d) The current mineral leases of the state;

2 (e) The potential necessity of administrative or legislative action to
3 enhance the fiscal and environmental return on leasing the state's interest
4 in the natural resources contained in the beds of the navigable waters of the
5 state;

6 (f) The oil and gas royalties that are being paid on tax-delinquent
7 lands in the state;

8 (g) The potential necessity of administrative or legislative action
9 to:

10 (1) Protect the rights of private property owners; and

11 (2) Ease the administrative burdens of:

12 (A) County tax collectors and assessors in dealing with
13 tax-delinquent lands; and

14 (B) Entities that have producing wells and active leases
15 on such tax-delinquent lands; and

16 (h) Any other issues requiring study that would provide clarity
17 regarding the natural resources contained in the beds of the navigable waters
18 of the state and on tax-delinquent lands.

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20 Respectfully submitted,

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24 Representative John Charles Edwards
25 District 38

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30 By: JLL/JLL
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