S21RS SGR No. 3 (Rouses)

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Fifty Third Student Senate of Louisiana State University

AT THE SPRING REGULAR SESSION OF Two Thousand and Twenty-One

S.G.R. 3

ENROLLED
AUTHORED BY SENATOR(S):
SENATOR CRADDOCK
SENATOR QUADIR
SENATOR TAYLOR
SENATOR STAGGS
SENATOR PATEL
SENATOR NGUYEN
SENATOR PALLOTTA
SENATOR LANDRY
SENATOR PERRODIN
SENATOR DOHRENWEND

A Resolution

To Urge LSU Administration to request for “Rouses Markets” to address the LSU community, in light of recent controversy among the LSU community, to reassure their commitment to diversity, democracy, inclusivity, and promotion of truth.

SGR 3
WHEREAS, “Rouses Markets” has been the official supermarket and official tailgate partner of LSU Athletics since 2019; as a donor and close partner, the company is therefore a representation of LSU Athletics and the university; and

WHEREAS, Donald Rouse Sr., co-owner and former CEO of “Rouses Markets,” continues to be a public representative of the company; and

WHEREAS, Donald Rouse Sr. was in Washington D.C. on January 6, 2021 as an attendee of the “Stop the Steal” protests; this protest developed into a violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol that resulted in the deaths of five Americans; and

WHEREAS, Donald Rouse Sr. claims to have left the protest before the insurrection began; however, his presence has raised questions about the company’s commitment to democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, both the company and Donald Rouse, Sr. have made statements condemning the riots, but have failed to recognize other concerning implications associated with the attendance of the “Stop the Steal” protests, including those related to voting rights, minority rights, the rule of law, and the peaceful transition of power; and
WHEREAS, the NAACP has cut all ties with “Rouses Markets” due to Donald Rouse Sr.’s presence at the protests, citing his actions as “a threat to democracy;” and

WHEREAS, at the January 2021 meeting of the LSU Board of Supervisors, a member of the Board, Collis B. Temple Jr. requested that LSU re-explore relations with Rouses, and he stated: “What [Donald] Rouse posted on Facebook reflects on LSU;” and

WHEREAS, Robert Dampf, Chair of the LSU Board of Supervisors, responded, “I absolutely do not think that will happen” to a question of whether LSU would sever ties with Rouses after controversy surrounding the Capitol riots surfaced; and

WHEREAS, we, the LSU Student Senate, have heard student concerns expressed over social media and through an opinion article in the Reveille related to the company’s affiliation with the university; and

WHEREAS, Even though it is an independent entity, “Rouses Markets” is a major donor and close partner of LSU; therefore, their actions should align with LSU’s mission, equity, and inclusion; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SENATE, that this body strongly urges LSU Administration to request for “Rouses Markets” to address the

SGR 3
LSU community with a commitment to democracy, diversity, inclusivity, and promotion of truth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE SUBMITTED TO Scott Woodward, LSU Athletics Director; and the LSU Board of Supervisors

THIS RESOLUTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE by a simple majority (one-half plus one) vote of the LSU Student Senate and signature by the Student Body President, upon lapse of time for presidential action, or if vetoed by the President and subsequently approved by the Senate, on the date of such approval.

APPROVED:

MARINA COLE
SPAKER OF THE SENATE

STONE COX
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

DATE: 2/1/21
DATE: 2/1/21