

Official quits in BREC, ExxonMobil tax battle

Lawsuit filed against assessor

BY SAM KARLIN

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ExxonMobil's allies in Baton Rouge voiced swift and vociferous opposition to BREC in recent weeks following the parks system's decision to appeal the petrochemical company's property tax assessment, which the agency had claimed was too low.

Emails obtained by The Advocate show that an executive at a firm that supplies workers to ExxonMobil's facilities, Ste-

phen Toups, of Turner Industries, resigned from the BREC Foundation board in protest of BREC's appeal. An ExxonMobil spokeswoman emailed a former ExxonMobil employee a draft "citizen letter to the editor" slamming the agency, a letter that was forwarded to BREC. ExxonMobil also filed a public records request for a wide range of documents and correspondence about the de-

The emails reveal a wave of pressure put on BREC following its appeal and shed light on the industry giant's clout in



ADVOCATE FILE PHOTO BY TRAVIS SPRADLING

➤ See BREC, page 4A ExxonMobil's facility on Scenic Highway

La. anti-abortion law on hold for appeal

Doctors challenge recent court ruling

BY MARK BALLARD

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Enforcement of new antiabortion restrictions will have to wait as the physicians who challenged Act 620's constitutionality asked for a review of an appellate court decision upholding the law.

The doctors argue in June Medical Services, et al., v. Dr. Rebekah Gee, et al., that requiring them to have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the abortion clinic

likely would require two of the state's three facilities to close and leave only one doctor with the proper credentials to perform the medical procedure that ends pregnancies. They want the 16 members

of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to review the split decision by a three-judge panel before allowing the state to enforce the law.

Two of three 5th Circuit judges on the panel — Jerry Smith, of Houston, and Edith Brown Clement, of New Orleans found Sept. 26 that Louisiana's **Unsafe Abortion Protection**

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