

11 July, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Louisiana is confronting the largest land loss crisis in North America. This accelerated land loss has far-reaching economic implications and poses real threats to the Mississippi River navigation system, our nation's largest port system, seafood industries, as well as oil and gas production and petrochemical manufacturing. As the leaders of businesses, industry trade associations, civic groups, and sportsmen's organizations, we want to thank you for your commitment to protecting jobs, growing the national economy, and allowing states autonomy and flexibility in how they approach their own unique challenges. In that context, we also urge you to reconsider one recommendation in your Fiscal Year 2018 budget submission that would seriously jeopardize your goals and ours in Louisiana.

The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act will soon provide the only consistent source of federal funds dedicated to combat Louisiana's land loss crisis. This predictable source of revenue – constitutionally committed to implementation of the State's 2017 Coastal Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast – is critical for the communities and businesses that rely on a stable Louisiana coastline to survive and grow. **Therefore, we respectfully request that you withdraw your Administration's FY 2018 proposal to repeal funding to the Gulf States currently mandated by law under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA).**

Coastal Louisiana is an economic engine that feeds and fuels the nation, and its ports connect the U.S. with the world. Large-scale restoration of coastal Louisiana presents a huge opportunity to protect existing infrastructure and industry of national importance. It also provides an opportunity to grow a restoration economy that can be a model for other coastal communities around the world. The state of Louisiana supports the U.S. economy by providing:

- Five of the nation's 15 largest shipping ports by cargo volume, handling a fifth of all waterborne commerce in the United States, generating \$11 billion of economic impacts and 1 of every 5 jobs in the State;
- \$47 billion per year in oil and gas production;
- 40,000 jobs in the oil and gas industry;
- Nearly 30 percent of the commercial fishing landings of the continental United States;
- \$1.8 billion annual impact from recreational fishing;
- Important wintering habitat for waterfowl in the Mississippi and Central Flyways, critical to a \$3 billion national waterfowl hunting industry which supports 27,348 jobs;
- \$16.5 billion per year in tourism in Louisiana; and
- \$9 billion per year in restaurant sales, supporting 207,000 jobs in Louisiana

Failure to implement coastal restoration exposes business, residential and infrastructure assets to greater risk from storms, which could cause damages of up to \$138 billion from each major storm. Coastal restoration also mitigates land loss, which will cost businesses an additional \$11.2 billion in business disruptions and loss of assets now located on land expected to be lost.

In addition to mitigating the economic costs of storm damage and land loss, investing in coastal restoration will support nearly 60,000 jobs over the next 10 years and \$1.1 to \$1.5 billion in annual output. Equally important, these jobs are queued up under the projects that have already received extensive study, modeling and approval as part of the State's innovative 2017 Coastal Master Plan to address the land loss crisis.

The GOMESA funds, drawn from energy revenues generated here in the waters off our coast, have been a cornerstone for coastal planning since passage of the Act in 2006. As noted above, Louisiana voters constitutionally dedicated this funding stream to the State's Coastal Trust Fund, which supports implementation of the Coastal Master Plan.

In short, billions of dollars in jobs, essential industries, infrastructure, and flow of commerce will be at risk, along with our coastal communities, wildlife, and way of life, if the current federal legal obligation to share in the cost of coastal restoration is undermined.

We strongly believe that the FY 2018 budget repeal of GOMESA dollars is inconsistent with protecting and growing the Gulf Coast and national economy. We respectfully request that you reconsider that approach, as you work with us and our communities to strengthen our working coast.

Sincerely,

Michael Hecht, President & CEO
Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.)

Scott Kirkpatrick, President
Coast Builders Coalition

Acme Refrigeration of Baton Rouge, LLC
Adventure Design, LLC
Akin Promotions
Allison Contracting
American Council of Engineering
Companies of Louisiana
American Institute of Architects Louisiana
American Shore and Beach Preservation
Association
American Waterfowler Magazine
America's WETLAND Foundation
Anglerschannel.com
Applied Coastal Research and Engineering,
Inc.
Ascension Parish
Assumption Parish Police Jury
Avery Outdoors
Avian-X Decoys

B.A.S.S., LLC
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers –
Southeast Region Chapter
Ballay, Braud & Colon, PLC
Banded Brands
Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Bayou Industrial Group
Bayou Lafourche Area Convention and
Visitors Bureau
Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District
Beaver Dam Hunting Services
Besh Restaurant Group
BFA Environmental Consultants
Bill Buckley Outdoor Photography
Bill Lewis Outdoors
Biohabitats, Inc.
Biological Surveys, Inc.
Black Ops Duck Calls

Blackley VanCleave Fishing
Bourbon House
Brennan's
Buck Gardner Calls
Business Council of New Orleans and the
Greater River Region
Cajun Catch Seafood
Cajun Fishing Adventures
Calcasieu Parish Police Jury
Calef Calls, Inc.
Cameron Parish
Cameron Parish Port, Harbor & Terminal
District
Canal Barge Company, Inc.
Capital Heavy Equipment
Catch Dat! Charters
Center for Planning Excellence
Channel Shipyard Company
City of Covington
City of New Orleans
Classic Sporting Properties
Clovelly Management
Coalition for Coastal Resilience and the
Economy
Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc.
Commission on Stewardship of the
Environment, Louisiana Interchurch
Conference
Committee for a Better New Orleans
Conservation Force
Creative Cajun Cooking
Cycle Construction Co., LLC
Cycle Marine Group, Inc.
Dat Dog Enterprises, LLC
Daybrook Fisheries
Delacroix Corporation
Delta Coast Consultants
Delta Discovery Tours
Dickie Brennan's Steakhouse
Diez Products, LLC
Diez Signs
Dredging Contractors of America
Duplantis Design Group
East St. Tammany Chamber
Emergent Method
EnvironMental Design
Eskew+Dumez+Ripple, APC
Eustis Insurance and Benefits
Foundation for Louisiana

Friends of New Orleans
Frontier Media
Gator Trax Boats
GetDucks.com
GIS Engineering, Inc.
Goat Farm Sportsman's Club
Go-Devil Manufacturers
Godfather Manufacturing
Good Guy Productions
Gorman Brothers
Grand Ridge Golf Course
Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company, LLC
Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce
Greater Lafourche Port Commission
Greater New Orleans Foundation
Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce
Greenhead Gear
Groundwork New Orleans
Groundwork USA
Gulf Economic Survival Team
Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
Gun Talk Media
Guy Harvey Magazine
Hackberry Rod and Gun Club
Hardcore Brands
Haydel's Game Calls, Inc.
Hillman Marine Services
Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce
HUK Performance Fishing
Hunting & Fishing with Steve McCadams
HuntingLife.com
Iberia Parish
Iberia Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau
Industrial Consulting and Supply Corp.
In-Fisherman Magazine
Inland Dredging Co.
Inspection Point Seals, LLC
Intera
J. Wayne Plaisance, Inc.
Jefferson Business Council
Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
Jefferson Parish
Jefferson Parish Economic Development
Commission
Jesuit Bend Mitigation Bank
Joule Energy
LA 1 Coalition
Lafourche Chamber of Commerce

Lafourche Parish
Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Administrator
Lake Area Industry Alliance
Lake Charles Harbor & Terminal District
Land Trust for Louisiana
Latendresse Media
Le Dez Industries
Leadership Lafourche
Leadership Terrebonne
Leaaf Environmental
LeBlanc Marine, LLC
Legends of the Outdoors Hall of Fame
Limitless Vistas, Inc.
Livingston Parish
LLDC Sportsman's Club
Louisiana Association of Business and
Industry
Louisiana Association of General
Contractors
Louisiana Bankers Association
Louisiana Chemical Association
Louisiana Interchurch Conference
Louisiana Lost Lands Environmental Tours
Louisiana Marsh Guide Service
Louisiana Municipal Association
Louisiana Parishes Against Coastal Erosion
(PACE)
Louisiana Property Acquisition Co., LLC
Louisiana REALTORS
Louisiana Restaurant Association
Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable
Engagement & Development
Lowlander Center
Manson Construction Company
Marolina Outdoors, Inc.
Marsh Dog
Marsh Rat Guide Service
Martin Ecosystems
Mary Queen of Vietnam Community
Development Corporation
McIlhenny Company
Metal Shark Boats
MG Structures
Mid-South Hunting & Fishing News
Morgan City Harbor District
Morganza Action Coalition
Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
NetWork Volunteers
New Orleans Big Game Fishing Club

New Orleans Business Alliance
New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
New Orleans Iron Works
Nicholls State University Student
Government Association
NOLA Holdings, LLC
NOMAD Outdoors
North Lafourche Levee District
North Shore Business Council
Numa C. Hero & Son
One Acadiana
ORA Estuaries
Outdoors with Larry Rea
Oxfam America
Palace Café
Paradise Louisiana TV
Pinnacle Waste, Inc.
Plaisance Dragline & Dredging
Plaquemines Association of Business and
Industry
Plaquemines Parish
Plaquemines Parish District Attorney
Point Au Fer Management
Port of South Louisiana
Port Sulphur Ace Hardware
PR Consultants
Premier Custom Calls
Premier Turning
Print All, Inc.
Progressive Coastal Consultants
Providence Engineering and Environmental
Group, LLC
Rainey Conservation Alliance
Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group, LLC
Ralph's on the Park
Randy Moertle and Associates, Inc.
Red Fish Grill
Red River Cold Storage
Resource Environmental Solutions
Restoration Systems, LLC
Rigid Industries
River Region Chamber of Commerce
Riverside Recycling & Disposal, LLC
Riverview Appraisal
RNT Calls
Royal Engineering & Consultants, LLC
Salter's Jiggin' Poles
Savoie Originals
South Central Industrial Association

South Lafourche Levee District
South Louisiana Economic Council
South Louisiana Flood Protection Authority -
East
Spot On Fishing Charters
St. Bernard Parish
St. Bernard Parish Tourist Commission
St. Charles Parish
St. Charles Street Realty, Inc.
St. James Parish
St. John the Baptist Parish
St. Martin Parish
St. Mary Chamber of Commerce
St. Mary Industrial Group
St. Mary Parish
St. Mary Parish Levee District
St. Tammany Economic Development
Foundation
St. Tammany Parish
St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce
Stantec
StayLocal
Strike King Lure Company
Tableau
Tagging Memories
Take 'Em Magazine
Tangipahoa Parish
Ted M. Falgout & Associates, Consultants
Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District
Terrebonne Parish
Terrebonne Port Commission
Terrebonne Readiness & Assistance
Coalition
The Arlene and Joseph Meraux Charitable
Foundation
The Board of the Old Arabi Neighborhood
Association

The Chamber Southwest Louisiana
The Great Delta Tours
The Outdoor Kitchen Show
The Urban Conservancy
The Vindez Group
The Waterfowler Taxidermy
Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce
Tierra Resources, LLC
Top Brass Tackle
Toups' Meatery
Toups South
Trahan Construction
Triton Boats
Turner House Productions
Uncorked New Orleans
Venice Charters Unlimited
Vermilion Parish Police Jury
Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission
Vince Diez Properties
Volkert, Inc.
Waggoner & Ball Architects
Wayfarer Environmental Technologies, LLC
Weeks Marine, Inc.
West St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce
Westbank Business and Industry Association
Westbank Fishing, LLC
Western Concrete Pumping, Inc.
White Car Marketing
Whitney Bank
Women of the Storm
Woodland Plantation
World Discovery Primos, LLC
Xpress Boats
Zink Calls
Zion Travelers Cooperative Center

CC: The Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
Ms. Mary Neumayr, Chief of Staff, White House Council on Environmental Quality

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Neely Kennedy, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Ralph Abraham, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Garret Graves, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Clay Higgins, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Mike Johnson, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Cedric Richmond, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Steve Scalise, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Tom Udall, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Ken Calvert, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Betty McCollum, U.S. House of Representatives