WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE: SUITE SH-520 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20510 (202) 224-5824

United States Senate

COMMITTEES: FINANCE HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS **ENERGY AND NATURAL** RESOURCES VETERANS' AFFAIRS JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

June 12, 2020

Mr. Jeff Trandahl **Executive Director** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) 1133 15th St NW Ste 1000 Washington, DC 20005-2727

Dear Mr. Trandahl:

It has recently come to my attention that the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and the City of New Orleans is applying for funding from the NFWF. They are requesting \$600,000 for the New Orleans East Landbridge Living Shoreline and Marsh Creation project. Both the CPRA and the City of New Orleans are each providing a match of \$300,000.

The CPRA and the City of New Orleans plan to use the funds to conduct preliminary planning and design of a project to create new wetlands habitats and restore degraded marsh on approximately 1,000 to 1,500 acres, while also creasing roughly five to ten linear miles of living shoreline protection. The project would be located along Chef Menteur Highway along a landbridge that divides Lake Pontchartrain from Lake Borgne and the Gulf of Mexico. The partners predict that in addition to creating and restoring habitat, the project would provide storm surge protection to approximately 1.5 million people in the Greater New Orleans area.

I appreciate the NFWF's consideration of this application. I ask that you please keep my office informed on the progress of this proposal as well as when a final decision has been made regarding this grant. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Eby in my Baton Rouge Office at (225) 929-7711.

Sincerely,

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

United States Senator

Bill Cassidy, M.D.

BC/ME