

May 22, 2024

An Open Letter to the People of Louisiana -

Hurricane season is upon us, and the stakes are incredibly high for our communities, economy and world-class Sportsman's Paradise. Louisiana's coastal program – which was born of the hard lessons we learned together after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita – has resulted in a stronger and more resilient coast.

We are concerned by recent shifts in the state's coastal program, particularly the dramatic changes in the direction and composition of the CPRA Board and lack of adherence to our science-driven Coastal Master Plan. Right now, we face the threat of diminishing the state's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority by consolidating it under a much larger agency. Additionally, CPRA leadership is publicly promoting projects that have not been vetted through the Coastal Master Plan process and are technically weak.

To continue the progress made on the monumental task of restoring and protecting coastal Louisiana, we recommend:

- Implementing impactful, sustainable and science-based projects from the Coastal Master Plan as quickly as possible to meet the urgency of our land loss crisis.
- Maintaining our state coastal agency as a standalone entity that prioritizes our coast.

The Landry administration was fortunate to inherit a bipartisan legacy of investment in our coast that has helped our people face our land loss crisis with as much confidence as possible. Since its inception, our state's Coastal Master Plan, now in its fourth iteration, has won unanimous legislative approval. Because of our robust, science-based Coastal Master Plan process, Louisiana has also gained the confidence of the federal government, state partners and industry leaders, which has led to the investment of \$21.6 billion in mostly non-state dollars in restoration and protection project implementation and infrastructure.

Our coastal program works. Since 2005, it has fortified levees and coastal ecosystems benefiting over 67,000 acres, improved 383 miles of levee and restored 71.6 miles of barrier islands. And the momentum is only improving. In the next year alone, if we hold the course, Louisiana is on track to create or nourish another 20 square miles of coastal wetlands and create tens of thousands more jobs. Furthermore, polling illustrates that Louisianians overwhelmingly support preserving and investing in the program, showing 92% of Louisiana voters support science-based restoration plans and 80% approve of sediment diversions, cornerstone strategies in that plan.

The tangible gains achieved by Louisiana's coastal program hold together the fabric of our communities, give business leaders the confidence to invest in and plan for the future, protect increasingly vulnerable infrastructure and strengthen our beloved Sportsman's Paradise. As we face another hurricane season, we can't lose our momentum. The very future of our state is at stake.

Signed,

William J. Abney

Louisiana Sportsman

Chris Adams

Louisiana Small Scale
Agriculture Coalition

Tamara Agins

Hawk's Nest

Russ Allison

South Fork Hunting Club

Jordan Anderson

J and the Causeways

Shawn Anglim

First Grace United Methodist
Church

Pat Arnould

Citizen, United Houma Nation

Albert Bacilla

Louisiana Sportsman
Ducks Unlimited Volunteer

Ryan Bagala

Louisiana Sportsman

Bonnie Bagwell

Louisiana Resident

Tom Bair

Visiting Sportsman

Cyrus Baird

Delta Waterfowl

Katherine Barker

Louisiana Resident

Robin Barnes

Resilience Resolutions

Corey Beenen

Louisiana Sportsman

Blair Begnaud

Bayou Vermilion Preservation
Association

Mike Bengé

Delacroix Corporation

Big Freedia

Jesse Bishop

Charter Captain

Ken Blake

Outdoor Manufacturing
Representative

Jacqueline Blanchard

Sukeban
Coutelier

Richie Blink

Delta Discovery Tours

Rev. Dr. Ellen Blue

United Methodist Church

Dale Bordelon

Bayou Beast Calls

Lauren Bourg

National Audubon Society

Gigi Boyer

CRCL Volunteer
Orleans Parish Resident

Bryan Brasher

Bass Anglers Sportsman Society

Katie Brasted

Woodlands Conservancy

Robert Breaux

Bob's Bayou Black Marina

Dickie Brennan

Dickie Brennan & Company

Bill Bridge

Global Green USA

Erin Brown

Louisiana Sportsman

Cindy Brown

Land Trust for Louisiana

Rusty Bullock

RNT Calls

Emily Bullock

SMM

JoAnn Burke

Louisiana Resident

Leslie Calhoun

Friends of Black Bayou National
Wildlife Refuge

David Campbell

Little Tchefuncte River
Association

Liz Camuti

SMM
Professor of Landscape
Architecture, Tulane University

Marcus Jacobs, Dana**Honn, & Caitlin Carney**

Porgy's Seafood Market

Nellie Catzen

Committee for a Better New
Orleans

Gregory Cavallo

Louisiana Sportsman

Baley Champagne

Fisherwoman
Terrebonne Parish Native

Brian Chandler

Key Corner Sportsman's Club

Michael Cheramie

Cheramie Trucking
Louisiana Sportsman

Paul Clancy

Louisiana Resident
CRCL Volunteer

Diane Clancy

Naturalist

Evelyn Clinton

Orleans Parish Resident

W. Philip Clinton

Pontchartrain Conservancy
Volunteer

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James Collier

Paprika Studios

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BABs

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Jennifer Coulson

Orleans Audubon Society

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Woodland Plantation

Kyle Crosby

Louisiana Dread

Fernell Cryar

Christ Episcopal Church

Richard Cryar

Christ Episcopal Church

Jessica Dandridge-Smith

The Water Collaborative

Adam Davis

Buck Gardner Calls

John W. Day, PhD

Professor Emeritus of
Oceanography and Coastal
Science, LSU

Dave Demarest

Bayou Beer & Wine Garden
Holy Ground Irish Pub
Oak and Ale

Rev. Dr. Fred Devall

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

Remy Diamond

C'Mere

Chris Dier

2020 Louisiana Teacher of the Year

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NOLA Woodworks

Susie Poulter & Chase Dixon

New Orleans Boxing Club

Meredith Dowling

SouthWings, LLC

Avery Duet

Louisiana Sportsman

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Louisiana Resident

Al Duvernay

CRCL Super Volunteer

Tracy Echols

Echols Home Inspections

Madeline Ellis

Mimosa Handcrafted

Ted Falgout

Lafourche Parish Resident

Paige Fary

CRCL Volunteer
Orleans Parish Resident

Ashley Ferguson

Former LDWF Employee

Felipe Ferreira

Louisiana Sportsman
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Randy Fertel

Ruth U. Fertel Foundation

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Black Ops Duck Calls

Marty Floyd

Rapides Wildlife Association

Mike Frenette

Redfish Lodge of Louisiana

Greg Gasperecz

Orleans Parish Resident

George Gekas

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Gene Gilliland

Bass Fishing Hall of Fame

Polly Glover

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Camila Santi & Karl Gommel

Krewefish

Jason Goodenough

Goodenough Supper Club

Britt Gooding

Sportsman

Marie Gould

Louisiana Lost Lands
Environmental Tours

Erik Guggenheim

Louisiana Sportsman

Mike Guidry

Rippin Lip Guide Service

Spencer Halford

Rolling Thunder Calls

Lauren Hall

LAH Designs

Don Hauber, PhD

Professor Emeritus, Biological Sciences, Loyola University New Orleans

Rod Haydel

Haydel Game Calls

Britney Hebert

Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association

Howard Hebert

Louisiana Sportsman
Jefferson Parish Resident

Mason Hereford

Turkey and the Wolf
Molly's Rise and Shine
Hungry Eyes
Hot Stuff

Lauren Hinkel

High School Science Teacher

Rich Holland

Outdoor Writer

Julie Holman

WHIV 102.3

Chris Holmes

Louisiana Sportsman
Outdoor Writer

Dana Honn

Cafe Carmo

Aaron Humphries

Traveling Sportsman

Ray Jackson

Louisiana Resident

Constance Jackson

Southern Food and Beverage
Museum

Arthur Johnson

Lower 9th Ward Center for
Sustainable Engagement and
Development

Ben Johnson

New Orleans Resident

Barbara Johnson

The Great Delta Tours

Erik I. Johnson, PhD

Audubon Delta

Doug Karpicke

River View Appraisals

Annalisa Kelly

Jefferson Parish Economic
Development Commission

G. Paul Kemp, PhD

Coastal Oceanographer &
Geologist

Albertine Kimble

Plaquemines Parish East Bank
Resident

Ryan Klutts

Sportsman

John Koefler

Citizens Against Widening the
Industrial Canal

Ryan Lambert

Cajun Fishing Adventures

Martin E. Landrieu

Pontchartrain Conservancy
Board Member

**Todd Wackerman & Maria
Landrum**

STEM Library Lab

Jake Latendresse

Latendresse Media
Bassmaster

Tia LeBrun

Keynotes & Consulting
United Houma Nation

Christina Lehew

Common Ground Relief, Inc.

Emile LeJeune

Williams Architects
CRCL Volunteer

Stephen C. Lund

Visiting Sportsman

Adam Lyerly

Refuge Game Calls

Raymond Lynch

Sportsman

Chris Macaluso

Theodore Roosevelt
Conservation Partnership

Sarah Mack, PhD

Tierra Foundation
Tierra Resources, LLC

Ernesto Maldonado

EM Improvements

Simone Maloz

Restore the Mississippi River
Delta

Pastor G. Manning

The Greater New Orleans
Climate Coalition

Mike Mariana

Plaquemines Parish Resident

Garry Mason

Legends of the Outdoors Hall of
Fame

Todd Masson

Marsh Man Masson

Shane Matherne

Louisiana Sportsman

Kevin McCaffrey

ePrimeMedia

Brent McCrossen

Audiosocket
GRIPNR

Will McDow

Environmental Defense Fund

Nate McWilliams

McWilliams Farms and Trucking

John Alden Meade

Meade Young LLC
Pontchartrain Conservancy
Board Member

John Meany

Student, University of Louisiana
at Lafayette

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Louisiana Resident

Louis Michot

Lost Bayou Ramblers

MidCitizen Entertainment**Kylie Miller**

St. Bernard Parish Native

Reid A. Miller, P.E.

Miller Engineers and Associates,
Inc.

Amanda Moore

National Wildlife Federation

John Morello

Technology Entrepreneur and
Founder

David Muth

Delta Front LLC

Naughty Professor**Rachel Nederveld**

Louisiana Resident

Khai Nguyen

Sông Community Development
Corporation

Mason Page

Murier Ecosystem Services, LLC

James Parrino, P.E.

Louisiana Sportsman

Laura Paul

lowernine.org

M. Chadwick Pellerin, J.D.

CRCL Volunteer
French Quarter Resident

Mary Phillips

High School Science Teacher

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Languille Lounge Duck Club

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Pêche Seafood Grill

Clyde L. Pritchard, P.E.

Pritchard Engineering

Marissa Rabalais

Sportswoman
The Outdoor Kitchen Show

Leigh Rachel

Louisiana Interfaith Conference

Larry Raymond

Shreveport Bird Study Group

Dr. Harish Ratnayaka

Xavier University of Louisiana

Dayle Reed

Live Wire Electric

J.V. Remsen, PhD

Professor Emeritus of Natural
Science, LSU
Curator of Birds

Jane Remson, O. Carm

Carmelite NGO

Topher Rieth

Mid City Construction

Tyler Rivet

Bassmaster Elite Series Pro

William Robicheaux

Madison Preparatory Academy

Fred Roetker

Retired USFWS Pilot Biologist

Jordan & Maggie Rose

Goodwood NOLA

Sandy Rosenthal

Levees.org

Mike Rothecker

Visiting Sportsman

Ann Ryba

New Orleans Resident

George Schaffer

Crompton International

Jordan Schouest

Louisiana Sportsman

Tara Schroeder

Louisiana Resident

Perry Scioneaux

Louisiana Sportsman

Daniel Shaw

Commercial Fisherman

Louisiana Sportsman

Liz Shephard

LifeCity

Jackie Shreve

Civic Activist

Leighann Smith

Bologna and the Wolf

Piece of Meat

Leighantics Crafts

Natalie Snider, PhD

University of Maryland Center
for Environmental Science

Susan Spicer

Rosedale Restaurant

Mike Stag

Stag Liuzza

Julie S. Stokes, CPA

Ellevate Louisiana

Sweet Crude**Tank and the Bangas****Tony Taylor**

Sportsman Gear

Paul Taylor

Louisiana Sportsman

Camp Owner at Pass-A-Loutre

Kevin Terrebonne

Louisiana Sportsman

Travis Thompson

All Florida

Isaac & Amanda Toups

Toups' Meatery

Kristi Trail

Pontchartrain Conservancy

Rebecca Triche

Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Jim Tripp

Former Member, Governor's

Commission on Coastal

Protection, Conservation and

Restoration

2007 CRCL Lifetime

Achievement Award Winner

Sean Turner

Louisiana Sportsman

The Outdoor Kitchen Show

Chris Turpin

Plaquemines Parish Resident

Connie Uddo

NOLA Tree Project

Ashwin Vilkh

Saffron NOLA

Jordan Vizinat

Louisiana Sportsman

Edward M. Walsh

Retired Fisheries Biologist

Travis Ward

Makers Call Company

Paul Whitehead, PhD

Rapides Wildlife Association

Charles Williams

Conservationist

Maura Wood

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