

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

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Ryan Bagala

Louisiana Sportsman

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Tom Bair

Visiting Sportsman

Cyrus Baird

Delta Waterfowl

Katherine Barker

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Robin Barnes

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James Collier

Paprika Studios

Marti Collins

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BABs

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Top Brass Tackle

Jennifer Coulson

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Holy Ground Irish Pub
Oak and Ale

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Remy Diamond

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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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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

Musician, The Revivalists

Gene Gilliland

Bass Fishing Hall of Fame

Polly Glover

Restore or Retreat

Camila Santi & Karl Gommel

Krewefish

Jason Goodenough

Goodenough Supper Club

Britt Gooding

Sportsman

Marie Gould

Louisiana Lost Lands
Environmental Tours

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Louisiana Sportsman

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Rippin Lip Guide Service

Spencer Halford

Rolling Thunder Calls

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Hungry Eyes
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The Greater New Orleans
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Languille Lounge Duck Club

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Pêche Seafood Grill

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Marissa Rabalais

Sportswoman
The Outdoor Kitchen Show

Leigh Rachel

Louisiana Interfaith Conference

Larry Raymond

Shreveport Bird Study Group

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Xavier University of Louisiana

Dayle Reed

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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

Campion 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

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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

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Former Member, Governor's
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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

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Retired Fisheries Biologist

Travis Ward

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Rapides Wildlife Association

Charles Williams

Conservationist

Maura Wood

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