

May 13, 2014

Dear Members of the Louisiana Senate,

The undersigned businesses, business associations, economic development groups, civic associations, tourism and outdoor recreation groups, and local officials urge the prompt passage of HB 490 (Brett Geymann, R—Lake Charles), which will protect the state's Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund (Coastal Fund) by prohibiting it from being used as a pass-through account for purposes other than coastal protection and restoration. As supporters of the RESTORE Act and the State Master Plan process, we know that large-scale coastal restoration is urgently needed to protect our businesses, economic base and communities. Investing in protection and restoration of our coast will reduce storm risk, while also creating jobs and economic opportunities that are important to our members, customers and parishes.

Monies dedicated to the Coastal Fund should only be used for coastal protection and restoration, but for the past few years, a loophole in the law has been used by the state as a way to attempt to balance the state's ailing budget. While the Louisiana constitution prohibits using one-time money for recurring costs, such as health care and higher education, some lawmakers believe they can get around that rule by transferring money through the Coastal Fund.

The perception of impropriety created by these budget tactics, particularly at this most critical time in the implementation phase of Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan, sends the wrong message to federal partners in charge of allocating and tracking dollars from Clean Water Act fines related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and related sources of funding. The current budget machinations erode the integrity of the Coastal Fund and may threaten many millions of future dollars for efforts essential to the state's true coastal recovery.

As civic and business leaders who value restoration as one of our top policy priorities, we urge you to pass HB 490 and protect the integrity of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund, by ensuring it will be used only as intended. The people of Louisiana deserve the state's continued commitment to comprehensive coastal restoration. Our future and way of life depend on it.

Thank you for your attention to this important bill.

Signed,

### **Business Associations and Economic Development Groups**

Bayou Lafourche Area Convention  
and Visitors Bureau  
Carolyn Cheramie  
Executive Director  
Raceland, LA

Cajun Coast Visitors and Convention Center  
Carrie Stansbury  
Executive Director  
Morgan City, LA

Chamber of Commerce Southwest Louisiana  
George Swift  
President and CEO  
Lake Charles, LA

Coast Builders Coalition  
Scott Kirkpatrick  
President  
Baton Rouge, LA

Dredging Contractors of America  
Barry Holliday  
Executive Director  
National/LA members

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

*Business Associations and Economic Development Groups (Continued)*

Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association  
Jim Stark, Executive Director  
New Orleans, LA

Houma Area Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Sharon Alford  
Executive Director  
Gray, LA

Iberia Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Fran Thibodaux  
Executive Director  
New Iberia, LA

Jefferson Chamber of Commerce  
Todd Murphy  
President & CEO  
Metairie, LA

Jefferson Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Violet Peters  
Executive Director  
New Orleans, LA

Jefferson Parish Economic  
Development Commission  
Jerry Bologna  
Executive Director  
Avondale, LA

Lafourche Chamber of Commerce  
Lin Kiger  
President & CEO  
Larose, LA

Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Shelley Johnson  
Executive Director  
Lake Charles, LA

Louisiana Restaurant Association  
Stan Harris  
President/CEO  
Metairie, LA

Louisiana Science Teachers Association  
Nathan Cotten  
President  
Bourg, LA

Louisiana Tourism Coastal Coalition  
Elizabeth McDougall  
Executive Director  
Metairie, LA

New Orleans Chamber of Commerce  
Ben Johnson  
President and CEO  
New Orleans, LA

New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Jeff Anding  
Coordinator, Industry Relations and  
Governmental Affairs  
New Orleans, LA

Plaquemines Association of Business  
and Industry  
Robert L. Thomas  
Executive Director  
Belle Chasse, LA

Plaquemines Parish Office of Tourism and  
Economic Development  
Stan Mathes  
Director  
Belle Chasse, LA

River Region Chamber of Commerce  
Chassity McComack  
Executive Director  
LaPlace, LA

South Central Industrial Association  
Jane Arnette  
Executive Director  
Houma, LA

St. Bernard Parish Chamber of Commerce  
Stephen Reuther  
Executive Director  
Chalmette, LA

*Business Associations and Economic Development Groups (Continued)*

St. Bernard Parish Economic  
Development Foundation  
Danny Bourgeois  
Executive Director  
Chalmette, LA

St. Bernard Parish Tourist Commission  
Claire Henderson  
Vice-Chair  
Arabi, LA

St. Charles Parish Economic  
Development Council  
Tommy Faucheux  
Chairman  
Hahnville, LA

St. Mary Chamber of Commerce  
Donna F. Meyer  
President  
Morgan City, LA

St. Mary Industrial Group  
Gregory Roussel  
President  
Morgan City, LA

St. Tammany Parish Tourist and  
Convention Commission  
Donna O'Daniels  
President and CEO  
Mandeville, LA

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission  
Alison Miller  
Executive Director  
Abbeville, LA

**Civic, Community, Stakeholder and Other Groups**

4-H Shooting Sports, Ascension Parish  
Thad Bellow  
Director  
Sorrento, LA

American Sportsmen Against Poachers  
Troy Schexnayder  
President  
Sorrento, LA 70778

Avodah, Jewish Service Corps  
Dani Levine  
New Orleans Coordinator  
New Orleans, LA

Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program  
Kerry St. Pe'  
Program Director  
Thibodaux, LA

BISCO  
Sharon S. Gauthe  
Director  
Thibodaux, LA

Black Bear Conservation Coalition  
Paul Davidson  
Executive Director  
Baton Rouge, LA

Broadmoor Improvement Association  
Jeff Gardner  
Board Member  
New Orleans, LA

Buckguides.com  
Chris Nook  
CEO  
National/LA

*Civic, Community, Stakeholder and Other Groups (continued)*

Center for Planning Excellence  
Camille Manning-Broome  
Senior Vice President  
Baton Rouge, LA

Gulf Coast British Field Trial Society  
Todd Kruebbe  
President  
MS/LA/AL/FL

Coastal Angler Magazine - NOLA  
Bruno Prager  
Editor/Publisher  
New Orleans, LA

Gulf Coast Waterfowl Festival  
Randy Wheeler  
CEO  
TX/LA/MS

Conservation Force  
John J. Jackson, III  
Executive Director  
Metairie, LA

Harahan Rotary Club  
Mike Babin  
President  
Harahan, LA

Dawn Busters Kiwanis Club  
Mike Haffner  
President  
Metairie, LA

Huntducks.com  
Chris Nook  
CEO  
National

Deux Chenes Hunting Club  
Ron Guidry  
Owner/Host  
Abbeville, LA

Kenner Rotary Club  
Chuck Norski  
President  
Kenner, LA

Faubourg St. John Neighborhood Association  
Greg Jeanfreau  
President  
New Orleans, LA

Levees.org  
Sandy Rosenthal  
Founder and Director  
New Orleans, LA

Fishinghub.com  
Chris Nook  
CEO  
National/Regional LA

Limitless Vistas, Inc.  
Patrick A. Barnes, P.G.  
President and Founder  
New Orleans, LA

Fowl Nation  
Shawn Nelson  
CEO  
National Waterfowl Hunting website

League of Women Voters of Louisiana  
Sandra Slifer  
President  
Covington, LA

Friends of New Orleans  
Denise Byrne  
Acting Executive Director  
and Founding Board Member  
New Orleans, LA

Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation  
Kevin Gaubert  
President  
Luling, LA

*Civic, Community, Stakeholder and Other Groups (continued)*

Louisiana Republican Women  
Nancy Wolfe  
President  
Belle Chase, LA

Metairie Sunrise Rotary Club  
Rene Gaus  
President  
Metairie, LA

Morganza Action Coalition  
Daniel Walker  
Member and Past President  
Houma, LA

New Orleans League of Women Voters  
Francine Giugno  
President  
New Orleans, LA

Outdoor Roots  
David Moreland  
Owner  
Baton Rouge, LA

Port Sulphur Baptist Church  
Lynn Rodrigue  
Pastor  
Port Sulphur, LA

Recycled Fish  
Teeg Stouffer  
Executive Director  
National/LA

Republican Women of Louisiana  
Nancy Wolfe  
President  
Belle Chasse, LA

Shooters Of Faith  
W. Wayne Miller  
President  
National

Solid Rock Christian Academy  
Nicole Rodrigue  
Assistant Administrator  
Port Sulphur, LA

South Louisiana Flood Protection  
Authority - East  
Bob Turner  
Regional Executive Director  
New Orleans, LA

SouthWings  
Meredith Dowling  
Gulf Program Director  
New Orleans, LA

St. Roch Neighborhood Association  
Derrick Floyd  
President  
New Orleans, LA

Team Real Duck  
Charlie Holder  
President  
National Waterfowl Calling Competition

Terrebonne Readiness & Assistance Coalition  
Peg Case  
Director  
Houma, LA

The Activist Angler  
Robert Montgomery  
CEO  
National/Regional LA

United States Freshwater Fishing Federation  
Mike McNett  
Chairman  
National/LA

United States Angling Association, and the  
U.S.A. Fly Fishing Team  
U.S.A Ice Fishing Team  
U.S.A. Junior Fly Fishing Team  
Mike McNett  
President & Director

*Civic, Community, Stakeholder and Other Groups (continued)*

*West Bank Rotary Club  
Corey Dunbar  
President  
Gretna, LA*

*Women of the Storm  
Anne M. Milling  
Chair  
New Orleans, LA*

**Individual Businesses**

Advanced Pressure Cleaning  
Howard Cuevas  
Owner  
Baton Rouge, LA

Cajun Catch Seafood  
Blaine Jones  
Owner  
Gonzales, LA

Applied Coastal Research and Engineering, Inc.  
Steve Underwood  
Senior Coastal Scientist  
Mashpee, MA

Cajun Fishing Adventures  
Ryan Lambert  
Owner  
New Orleans, LA

Belle Chasse Bed and Breakfast  
William Hall  
Owner  
Belle Chasse, LA

Caminita Wildlife Art  
Randy L Caminita, Sr.  
Artist/Owner  
Folsom, LA

Besh Restaurant Group  
Chef John Besh  
President  
New Orleans, LA

Canal Barge  
Spencer Murphy  
Vice President - Risk Management  
New Orleans, LA

BFA Environmental Consultants  
Patrick A. Barnes, P.G.  
President  
New Orleans, LA

Catch Dat! Charters  
Capt. Elton Rodrigue  
Owner  
Dularge, LA

Biohabitats, Inc.  
Keith Bowers  
President  
Baltimore, MD

Comrade Sporting Club  
Joe McPherson  
President  
Woodworth, LA

Bowie Outfitters  
Lea Benoit  
Store Manager  
Baton Rouge, LA

Creative Cajun Cooking  
Jimmy Babin  
Owner  
St. Amant, LA

Cajun Boy Airboats  
Josh Galt  
CEO  
Belle Chasse, LA

Crescent Transportation Service, Inc.  
Jay Champagne  
Owner  
Belle Chasse, LA

*Individual Businesses (continued)*

Cycle Construction Co., LLC  
Mark Grayson  
Project Development  
Kenner, LA

Daybrook Fisheries, Inc.  
W. Borden Wallace  
Executive Vice President  
Empire, LA

Decoy Outdoors Clothing  
Rick Talkington  
Owner  
National

Delta Crew Boat Company  
Earl Armstrong  
Owner  
Boothville, LA

Diez Products  
and Diez Signs, LLC  
Vince Diez  
Owner  
Gonzales, LA

Dr. Fitz Consulting  
Pat Fitzpatrick  
CEO  
Slidell, LA

Duck Commander Corp.  
Alan Robertson  
Director of Marketing  
West Monroe, LA

Elite Nutrition  
B. Badgett  
CEO  
National

Eustis Insurance and Benefits  
Gary J. Delahoussaye  
Vice President  
Metairie & Baton Rouge, LA

First South Land Bank  
Ben Sanders  
President  
Baton Rouge, LA

Fowl Play Game Calls  
Garrett Wishon  
Owner  
National

Full Spectrum Photography  
and Joel Luck's Media  
Joel Luck  
Owner  
National/LA

Gotta Go Charters  
Capt. Sammie Faulk  
Owner  
Lake Charles

Grand Ridge Golf  
Ryan Lambert  
President  
Luling, LA

Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co., LLC  
William Hanson  
Vice President, Government Relations  
and U.S. Business Development  
Oak Brook, IL (doing business in LA)

Grey Wolf Fly Shop  
Howard Malpass  
Owner  
Shreveport, LA

Gulf Coast Charters, LLC  
Capt. Steve Shook  
Owner  
Golden Meadow, LA

Hall Real Estate Management, LLC  
William Hall  
Owner  
Belle Chasse, LA

*Individual Businesses (continued)*

K2 Professional Grade Coolers  
J. Burton Angelle  
Owner  
Lafayette, LA

LeDez Industries  
Vince Diez  
Owner  
Gonzales, LA

Louisiana Lost Lands Environmental Tours  
Marie Gould  
Owner  
New Orleans, LA

Louisiana Property Acquisition Co., LLC  
Lawrence Marino  
Manager  
Lafayette, LA

Major Equipment & Remediation  
R.E. Bob Miller  
President  
Morgan City, LA

Marsh and Bayou Magazine  
Chris Tiblier  
Publisher  
New Orleans, LA

Marsh Equipment and Restoration  
R.E. Bob Miller  
President  
Morgan City, LA

Marsh Land Outdoors  
Mike Kauffman  
CEO  
National

Marsh Rat Guide Service  
Capt. Chad Billiot  
Owner  
Golden Meadow, LA

Martin Ecosystems  
Jason Martin, CEO  
& Nicole Waguespack, President  
CEO  
Baton Rouge, LA

McIlhenny Company  
Tony Simmons  
President and CEO  
Avery Island, LA

NOLA Holdings, LLC  
Christian T. Brown  
President  
New Orleans, LA

ORA Estuaries  
Tyler Ortega  
President  
New Orleans, LA

Peacekeeper Charters  
Capt. Peace Marvel  
Owner  
Venice, LA

Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group, LLC  
Ralph Brennan  
President  
New Orleans, LA

Royal Engineers & Consultants, LLC  
Kirk Rhinehart  
Senior Vice President  
Baton Rouge, LA

Scale Damage Bowfishing  
Josh Galt  
Owner  
Belle Chasse, LA

Sporting Dog Adventures Television Show  
Jeff Fuller  
Host/CEO  
National/LA



*Individual Businesses (continued)*

Spot On Fishing Charters  
Capt. Anthony Buquoi  
Owner  
Leeville, LA

Sure Shot Game Calls  
Charlie Holder  
CEO  
National

Ted M Falgout & Associates, Consultants  
Ted M. Falgout  
President  
Larose, LA

Tee-Wayne's Seafood & Catering  
Wayne Abshire  
Owner  
Gonzales, LA

The Outdoor Kitchen Show  
Marrisa Turner  
Host/Owner  
Baton Rouge, LA

The Vindez Corporation  
Vince Diez  
Owner  
Gonzales, LA

Tierra Resources, LLC  
Sarah Mack  
President and CEO  
New Orleans, LA

Tolunay-Wong Engineers, Inc.  
Brady Turk  
Southeast Region Environmental Manager  
Gonzales, LA

Venice Charters Unlimited  
Capt. Brent Roy  
Owner  
Venice, LA

Vince Diez Properties  
& World Discovery Primos LLC  
Vince Diez  
Owner  
Gonzales, LA

Wayfarer Environmental Technologies, LLC  
Michael E. Turley  
President  
New Iberia, LA

Weeks Marine, Inc.  
Mark D. Sickles  
Corporate and Government Relations  
Covington, LA

Woodland Plantation  
Foster Creppel  
Owner  
Myrtle Grove, LA

Woody's Custom Rod Company  
Kim Bourns  
CEO  
National/Southeast

XSpecktations Guide Service of Dulac  
Capt. Howard Cuevas  
Owner  
Baton Rouge, LA