

March 8, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

First, we would like to thank you for your presence in Louisiana last August to commemorate Hurricane Katrina. Rebuilding our environment and economies in the aftermath of that disaster, and then following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, has certainly been a team effort among federal, state, and local governments – as well as business, foundation and NGO partners. We have made much progress together. The undersigned organizations, businesses and individuals represent a wide range of interests in Louisiana's recovery and long-term resiliency.

Unfortunately, despite the progress we have made since the 2005 hurricanes and the 2010 oil spill, Louisiana is still facing the largest land loss crisis in North America. This accelerated land loss has far-reaching implications due to its impacts on the Mississippi River navigation system, our nation's largest port system, seafood industries, as well as oil and gas production and petrochemical manufacturing. The restoration of coastal Louisiana's wetlands is one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. At stake is not only habitat for millions of migratory birds, waterfowl and other wildlife, but the very survival of New Orleans, other coastal communities and industries dependent on Louisiana's coast. In response, the State of Louisiana has a world-class, science-based Coastal Master Plan to stem that loss for the benefit of the entire region and nation.

To date, the State of Louisiana has responsibly and thoughtfully applied various grant and disaster response funding to create an integrated coastal program that ties ecosystem restoration and structural and nonstructural protection together. That approach is embodied in the Coastal Master Plan. The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) will soon provide the only consistent source of federal funds to continue its implementation. The funds are well-protected for this intended purpose and have been a cornerstone for coastal planning since passage of GOMESA. In 2006,



Louisiana voters constitutionally dedicated this funding stream to the State's Coastal Trust Fund, which supports implementation of the Coastal Master Plan.

You have demonstrated a long-standing commitment to Louisiana's ongoing recovery and its importance to the nation. We believe your proposal to redistribute GOMESA dollars is inconsistent with that very worthy commitment, and we were disappointed to see it again as a part of the budget discussion this year. We respectfully request that you reconsider that approach as you work with us and our communities to build the kind of long term resilience we can achieve.

Again, many thanks for all you have done for Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region. We look forward to more progress over the next year. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Cochran, Director, Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition, at scochran@edf.org or (202) 255-1198.

Sincerely,

Adams and Reese, LLP
Adventure Design, LLC
Alan Stie Promotions
Alan Stie School of Turkey Calling
America's WETLAND Foundation
American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana
American Institute of Architects Louisiana
American Shore and Beach Preservation Association
Ansardi Financial Services
Applied Coastal Research and Engineering, Inc.
Ascension Parish
Asche Studios
Ashley Barrios State Farm
Assumption Parish Police Jury
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell, & Berkowitz, P.C.
Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Bayou Civic Club
Bayou Grace Community Services
Bayou Industrial Group
Bayou Interfaith Shared Community Organizing
Bayou Lafourche Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District
Belle Chasse Lions Club
BEM Systems, Inc.
Besh Restaurant Group
BFA Environmental Consultants
Big O Charters, LLC
Big River Coalition
Biohabitats, Inc.
Biological Surveys, Inc.
Black Bear Conservation Coalition
Blue Heron Communications
Boggy River Ranch Guide Services
Bourgeois Law, LLC

British Field Trial Society of America
Brogden Farms
Business Council of New Orleans and the Greater River Region
Byewood Press
Cabela's Deer Gear
Cabela's Fisherman's Handbook
Cabela's SportingDog Adventures Television Show
Cajun Boy Airboats
Cajun Catch Seafood
Cajun Fishing Adventures
Calcasieu Parish Police Jury
CallingDucks.com
Cameron Parish
Camp Dularge, LLC
Canal Barge
CarecoTV, LLC
Catch Dat! Charters
Category 5 Outdoors
Center for Planning Excellence
Chaffe and Associates
Channel Shipyard Companies
Chris Moran's Marina, LLC
Christian Water Fowlers Association
Cimarron Valley Guide Service
City of Covington
City of Mandeville
City of New Orleans
City of Slidell
Classic Taxidermy
Coalition for Coastal Resilience and the Economy (CCRE)
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
Coast Builders Coalition
Coastal Apparel
Coastal Environments, Inc.

Common Ground Relief Wetlands, LLC
 Common Ground Relief, Inc.
 Comrade Sporting Club
 ConservAmerica
 Conservation Force
 Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship
 Creative Cajun Cooking
 Crescent Transportation Service, Inc.
 Dan Small Outdoors, LLC
 Dan Small Outdoors Radio
 Dana Brown & Associates, Inc.
 Davenport Construction
 Davenport Solutions
 Decoy Outdoors Clothing
 Delacroix Corporation
 Delta Coast Consultants
 Delta Crew Boat Company
 Dickie Brennan & Company
 Diez Products & Diez Signs, LLC
 Double D Guide Service
 Dr. Fitz Consulting
 Drake Waterfowl
 Dredging Contractors of America
 Duck Commander
 Duplantis Design Group
 eDIGMag eMagazine Publisher
 Elite Nutrition
 Emergent Method
 Entergy
 Environmental Defense Fund
 Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry
 Fins to Feathers
 Fishing & Hunting Texas
 Fishing for Life
 Fowl Play Game Calls
 FowlNation.com
 Friends of New Orleans
 Full Throttle Hog Dogs
 Gator Trax Boats
 Global Green USA
 Gordie's Wildlife
 Gorman Brothers
 Gotta Go Charters
 Grand Ridge Golf
 Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co., LLC
 Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce
 Greater Lafourche Port Commission
 Greater New Orleans Council of the Navy League of the United States
 Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO Inc.)
 Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce
 Grey Wolf Fly Shop
 Groundwork New Orleans
 Gulf Coast Chapter British Field Trial Society
 Gulf Coast Waterfowl Festival
 Gulf Economic Survival Team
 Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
 Gulf Restoration Network
 GulfRim Navigation
 Gun Talk Radio
 Gun Talk TV
 Guns and Gear TV
 Guy Harvey Magazine
 Guy Harvey Magazine's On-line Fisherman
 Hardcore Waterfowler
 Haydel's Game Calls Inc.
 HeadHunters NW
 Hoffman Game Birds
 Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
 Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce
 HuntingLife.com
 Iberia Parish
 Iberia Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau
 IBERIABANK
 In-Fisherman Magazine
 Intera
 Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
 Jefferson Parish
 Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission
 Jim Klug Outdoor Photography
 Jim Reynolds Outdoors Advertising
 Jim Reynolds Outdoors, LLC
 JimReynoldsOutdoors.com
 Joule Energy
 Kelly Outdoors Radio
 Kelly's Kall's
 LA 1 Coalition
 Lafourche Chamber of Commerce
 Lafourche Parish
 Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Administrator
 Lafourche Parish Water District No. 1
 Laitram, LLC
 Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
 Land Trust for Louisiana
 Larry R. Richardson & Associates
 Leadership Lafourche
 Leadership Terrebonne
 LeDez Industries
 Levees.org
 LifeCity, LLC
 Limitless Vistas, Inc.
 Livingston Parish
 Louisiana Association of Business and Industry
 Louisiana B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
 Louisiana Bankers Association
 Louisiana Chemical Association
 Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
 Louisiana Fly Fishing Charters
 Louisiana Lost Lands Environmental Tours
 Louisiana Marsh Guide Service
 Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association
 Louisiana Municipal Association
 Louisiana Oystermen Association
 Louisiana Parishes Against Coastal Erosion (PACE)
 Louisiana Property Acquisition Co., LLC

Louisiana REALTORS
 Louisiana Restaurant Association
 Louisiana Water Network
 Louisiana Wildlife Federation
 Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development
 Lowlander Center
 Lucky Dog Lanyards
 Marsh Rat Guide Service
 MarshLand Outdoors
 Martin Ecosystems
 Maxxed Out Guide Service
 Michael Furtman Outdoor Photography
 MidSouth Tackle and Hunting Show
 Missouri Valley Waterfowlers Association
 Montgomery Productions
 Morganza Action Coalition
 National Audubon Society
 Near and Far Photography
 NET500.CG Communications
 NetWork Voluntours
 New Orleans Big Game Fishing Club
 New Orleans Chamber of Commerce
 New Orleans Fish House
 New Orleans Iron Works
 New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation
 Nicholls State University Student Government Association
 NOLA Boat Rentals
 NOLA Holdings, LLC
 NOLA Vibe
 North Lafourche Levee District
 O'fieldstream Outdoor Journal
 Oklahoma Tackle and Hunting Show
 One Acadiana
 OOAK Digital Gallery
 ORA Estuaries
 Orleans Audubon Society
 Oxfam America
 Peacekeeper Charters
 Pitts & Matte, a Corporation of Certified Public Accountants
 Plaisance Dragline & Dredging
 Plantation Tire and Car Care
 Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry
 Plaquemines Parish
 Plaquemines Parish Office of Tourism and Economic Development
 Port of South Louisiana
 Port Sulphur Ace Hardware
 Postlethwaite & Netterville
 Print All Inc.
 Progressive Coastal Consultants
 Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group, LLC
 Recycled Fish
 Red Fish Grill
 Reel Shot Guide Service
 Reel Shot TV
 Restore or Retreat
 Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition
 River Region Chamber of Commerce
 Rocky Mountain Television Productions, LLC
 Rotary Club of Metairie
 Royal Engineers & Consultants, LLC
 RuggedLiving.net
 Salter's Jiggin' Poles
 Scale Damage Bowfishing
 Shell Shocked Outdoors
 Shooters of Faith
 Sierra Club Delta Chapter
 Slow Food New Orleans
 Soggy Acres Retrievers
 South Central Industrial Association
 South Lafourche Levee District
 South Louisiana Bank
 South Louisiana Economic Council
 South Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East
 South Plaquemines Rotary Club
 Southern Chaos
 SouthWings, Inc.
 Specialty Outdoor Services, Inc.
 Spirit of the Outdoors Radio Show
 Sportsmanshub.com
 Spot On Fishing Charters
 St. Bernard Parish
 St. Bernard Parish Chamber of Commerce
 St. Bernard Parish Economic Development Foundation
 St. Bernard Parish Tourist Commission
 St. Charles Parish
 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 Parish Tourist and Convention Commission
 Stirling Properties
 Sure Shot Game Calls
 Tagging Memories
 Tangipahoa Parish
 Team Real Duck
 Ted M. Falgout & Associates, Consultants
 Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
 Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District
 Terrebonne Parish
 Terrebonne Readiness & Assistance Coalition
 Texas Waterfowl Association
 The Activist Angler
 The Arlene and Joseph Meraux Charitable Foundation
 The Chamber Southwest Louisiana
 The National Wildlife Federation
 The Outdoor Guide Magazine
 The Outdoor Kitchen Show
 The TECHE Project
 The Urban Conservancy

The Vindez Corporation
Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce
Tierra Resources, LLC
Tom Broom Consulting
Toups' Meatery
Town of Grand Isle
Town of Jean Lafitte
Traditions Media, LLC
Trail Escapes, LLC
Tru Recoil
Turner House Productions
U.S. Angling Association
Uncorked New Orleans
United States Freshwater Fishing Federation
USA Fly Fishing Team
USA Ice Fishing Team
USA Junior Fly Fishing Team

Venice Charters Unlimited
Vermilion Parish Police Jury
Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission
Vince Diez Properties
Waggoner & Ball
Wayfarer Environmental Technologies, LLC
Weeks Marine, Inc.
Wetland Tours, LLC
Wetlands Media, LLC
Whitetail Diaries
Wilco Marsh Buggies & Draglines, Inc.
Wild Horse Creek Hunters & Anglers
Women of the Storm
Woody's Custom Rod Company
World Discovery Primos, LLC
Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures
Zion Travelers Cooperative Center

cc: Shaun Donovan, Director, Office of Management and Budget