

March 1, 2021

To: Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group
Re: *New Orleans East Landbridge Restoration Increment 1 Letter of Support*

Dear Trustees-

On behalf of our 136 signers representing local governments, legislators, community-based non-profits, sportsmen, restaurateurs, faith leaders, conservation organizations, scientists, business leaders, and concerned citizens, we write to express enthusiastic support for restoration of "New Orleans East Landbridge Restoration Increment 1" and urge selection of this large-scale project in the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group's Restoration Plan #8.

The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill impacted nearshore coastal marsh habitat throughout Louisiana, including the New Orleans East Landbridge. This landbridge separates Lake Pontchartrain from Lake Borgne and the Gulf of Mexico and is considered a critical landscape feature by the Army Corps of Engineers. Unfortunately, in addition to impacts from the oil spill, canal dredging, levees, wave exposure, subsidence and sea level rise have caused erosion and recession of the shoreline, leading to significant degradation of vital marsh habitat. Without action, the landbridge is on track to largely disappear over the next fifty years. Losing this feature will have a major impact on people and wildlife in the Greater New Orleans area. Large-scale restoration is urgently needed to restore eroding and degraded marsh, improving and increasing protection from flooding.

The landbridge serves several important functions, making restoration imperative:

- Reduces storm surges and provides storm protection for over 1.5 million people who live around Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas, including the cities of New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Metairie, LaPlace, Mandeville and Slidell;
- Provides vital wetland and estuarine functions, including control of tidal flow between the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Pontchartrain, benefitting the ecosystem and the people who rely on a healthy estuary for their livelihoods;
- Serves as important habitat for hundreds of species of fish and wildlife, including sturgeon and migratory birds;
- Aids the effectiveness of the Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) surrounding the Greater New Orleans and hosts the Highway 90 hurricane evacuation route.

Restoration of the New Orleans Landbridge has garnered support from tens of thousands of people since Hurricane Katrina. The City of New Orleans and the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, with robust support from state and local leaders, NGOs, and community groups, have begun preliminary design work on a large-scale restoration project on the landbridge with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funding. The proposed project would create 1500 acres of brackish marsh habitat and over 4 miles of living shoreline protection in Lake Borgne along the eastern perimeter of the marsh creation area. The project is located near

the Rigolets in an area recommended by the 2012 Army Corps MRGO Ecosystem Feasibility Report and the 2017 Louisiana Coastal Master Plan. It is also a priority area identified in the City of New Orleans Resilience Strategy and the Orleans Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan.

As concerned stakeholders, we urge selection of this large-scale marsh creation and living shoreline project to advance to full implementation through the NRDA process. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Soychak
350 New Orleans

Pastor Manning
Citizens Against Death Alley

Reverend Bell
A Community Voice

Blaine Jones
Cajun Catch Seafood

Beth Butler
A Community Voice -7th and L9 Wards

Ryan Lambert
Cajun Fishing Adventures
Grand Ridge Golf Course

Tommy Akin
Akin Promotions

Dana Honn
Carmo

Deacon Charmaine Kathmann
All Saints River Ridge

John Koeferl
Citizens Against Widening the Industrial Canal

Rev. Jay Angerer
All Saints River Ridge

Mayor Mark Johnson
City of Covington

Logan Burke
Alliance for Affordable Energy

Austin Feldbaum
City of New Orleans

Russ Allison
Allison Contracting

Brandon Nelson
Coalition for Coastal Resilience and the
Economy (CCRE)

John Fallon
Audubon Nature Institute

Kimberly Reyher
Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

Gene Gilliland
Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (BASS LLC)

Sandy Ha Nguyen
Coastal Communities Consulting, Inc. (CCC)

Dave Demarest and Fiona Delargy
Bayou Beer Garden
Bayou Wine Garden
Holy Ground Irish Pub

Nellie Catzen
Committee for a Better New Orleans

Josh Thompson
Bayou Coast Kayak Fishing Club

Charlotte Clarke
Common Ground Relief

Tom Brown
Biological Surveys, Inc.

Howard Conyers
Conyers Family BBQ

Councilmember Cyndi Nguyen
New Orleans City Council

Jimmy Babin
Creative Cajun Cooking

Nathan Richard
Cuvée Wine Bar and Bistro

Monique Harden
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice

Robert "Mike" Bengé
Delacroix Corporation

Richie Blink
Delta Discovery

Dawn Hebert
Eastern New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory
Council

Natalie Snider
Environmental Defense Fund

The Rt. Rev'd Morris King Thompson, Jr.
Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

Rebecca Wilcomb
Gianna Restaurant

Michael Hecht
Greater New Orleans, Inc.

Alexander "Sascha" Bollag
GreenJustice

Devon Turner
Grow Dat Youth Farm

Ryan Gresham
Gun Talk Media
Guns and Gear TV

Angela Chalk
Healthy Community Services

Cynthia Sarthou
Healthy Gulf

Calvin Alexander
Holy Cross Neighborhood Association

Julia Drapkin
ISeeChange

Todd Murphy
Jefferson Chamber of Commerce

Michelle Gonzales
Jefferson Parish Government

Brian Chandler
Key Corner Sportsman's Club

Burton Angelle
Lafayette Parish Resident

Lauren Hall
LAH Designs

Carol Giardina
Lake Catherine Civic Association

Wilma Heaton
Lakefront Management Authority

Jay Addison, DVM
Land Trust for Louisiana

Sandy Rosenthal
Levees.org

Liz Shephard
LifeCity

President Layton Ricks
Livingston Parish Government

Livingston Parish Council

Representative Royce Duplessis
Louisiana Legislature

Representative Amy Freeman
Louisiana Legislature

Representative Jason Hughes
Louisiana Legislature

Representative Candace Newell
Louisiana Legislature

Representative Mandie Landry
Louisiana Legislature

Representative Matthew Willard
Louisiana Legislature

Senator Jimmy Harris
Louisiana Legislature

Senator Joseph Bouie
Louisiana Legislature

Senator Karen Carter Peterson
Louisiana Legislature

Marie Gould
Louisiana Lost Lands Environmental Tours

Mike Smith
Louisiana Marsh Guide Service

Mary Gubala
Louisiana Master Naturalists - New Orleans

Stan Harris
Louisiana Restaurant Association

Ryan Schaefer
Louisiana Trappers & Alligator Hunters
Association

Rebecca Triche
Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Arthur Johnson
Lower 9th Ward Center for Sustainable
Engagement and Development

Laura Paul
lowernine.org

Kristina J. Peterson, PhD
Lowlander Center

Veni Harland
Marsh Dog
Marsh On The Fly

Khai Ngyuen
Mary Queen of Vietnam Community
Development Corporation
Topher Rieth
Mid-City Construction

Brian Moore
National Audubon Society

David Muth
National Wildlife Federation

Teddy Nathan
NetWork Volunteers

Ben Johnson
New Orleans Chamber of Commerce

Tangee Wall
New Orleans East Matters Coalition

AJ Rosenbohm
New Orleans Fly Fishers Club

Jon Dijkhuizen
NOLA Woodworks

Jennifer Coulson
Orleans Audubon Society

A E DuVernay III
Orleans Parish Resident

Attorney Michael Brown
Orleans Parish resident

Eric Bajon
Orleans Parish Resident

Jane Eyrich
Orleans Parish Resident

Laurie Conner
Orleans Parish Resident

Greg Gasperez
Orleans Parish Resident

Timothy K. Bond
Orleans Parish Resident

Canaan Heard
Orleans Parish Resident
Duck hunter

Larry Rea
Outdoors with Larry Rea

Gary Rispone
Paradise Louisiana TV

Ryan Prewitt
Pêche

Leighann Smith
Piece of Meat

Kristi Trail
Pontchartrain Conservancy

Dinah Maygarden
Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental
Sciences

Marianne Cufone
Recirculating Farms

Stuart Swanson
Red River Cold Storage

Alex Posorske
Ride NOLA

Doug Karpicke
Riverview Appraisal

The Rev. Frederick Devall
Saint Martin's Episcopal Church

Derek Boese
South Louisiana Flood Protection Authority –
East

Jonathan Foret
South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center

Meredith Dowling
SouthWings, LLC

Councilmember Bob Fisher
St. Charles Parish Council

Councilmember Bobby Donaldson
St. Charles Parish Council

Councilmember Dick Gibbs
St. Charles Parish Council

Councilmember Holly Fonseca
St. Charles Parish Council

Councilmember Julia Fisher-Perrier
St. Charles Parish Council

Councilmember La Sandra Darensbourg Gordon
St. Charles Parish Council

Councilmember Marilyn B. Bellock
St. Charles Parish Council

Councilmember Mary K. Clulee
St. Charles Parish Council

President Matthew Jewell
St. Charles Parish Government

Councilmember Nicky Dufrene
St. Charles Parish Council

President Jaclyn Hotard Gaudet
St. John the Baptist Parish Government

Ivy Matheiu
St. John the Baptist Parish Resident

The Rev. Seamus Doyle
St. John's Episcopal Church

President Michael B. Cooper
St. Tammany Parish Government

John Lopez, PhD
St. Tammany Parish Resident

Andy Kowalski
Sustainable Energy Economy Solutions

President Robby Miller
Tangipahoa Parish Government

Chris Macaluso
Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Blaise Pezold
The Arlene and Joseph Meraux Charitable
Foundation

Barbara Johnson
The Great Delta Tours

Mike Stewart
The Stewart Agency

Sarah Mack, MSPH, PhD, CFM
Tierra Resources LLC

Eric Cosby
Top Brass Tackle

Isaac and Amanda Toups
Toups' Meatery

Marissa Turner
Turner House Productions
"The Outdoor Kitchen Show"

Mike McNett
United States Angling Confederation
USA Ice Team

Jessica Dandridge
Water Collaborative

Katie Brasted
Woodlands Conservancy

Kenneth Bell and Evan Wimberly
Xavier University of Louisiana Geaux Green
Group
(student chapter of National Audubon Society)