

1. Dear Governor Landry, Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents. And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free. Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Eddie Olavarrieta
Paakaw@yahoo.com

2. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.
And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.
Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Hazell Boyce
Honlineh@gmail.com

3. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.
And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.
Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Charles Pizzo
942 Ursulines Ave
New Orleans, LA 70116
pizzocharles@gmail.com

4. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.
And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.
Barney Fortier
Lafayette, LA
337-278-9152

bfortier@me.com

5. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.
And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.
Please do not restructure the CPRA.
Will Dawes
wrdawesjr@gmail.com

6. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.
And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.
Please do not restructure the CPRA.
Sent from my iPhone
Turnerjema
turnerjema@aol.com

7. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.
And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.
Please do not restructure the CPRA.
Sent from my iPhone
Gene Shapiro
Gene.shapiro@icloud.com

8. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPad Norman Robinson

misalmas@icloud.com

9. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Mimi Moyse Schlesinger

mimisc70@gmail.com

504-430-8416

10. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Adolph Lopez

adolphlopez@gmail.com

11. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from Mail for Windows

Jeff and Jara Roux

jeffnjara@roux.org

12. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

As its mission is of vital importance and cannot be traded off to competing conflicts of interest relating to the needs of the Energy companies.

The risk is too great to have conflicts of interest.

Ave Crux Spes Unica

(Hail to the Cross, Our Only Hope)

Craig Schiro,

Folsom La

713-504-9690

Sent from my iPhone

Craig.schiro.sr@gmail.com

13. Dear Governor Landry, Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety

of Louisiana residents. And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free. Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Linda M. Jenkins

3251 Wall Blvd

Gretna, La 70056

lmjenkinsla@yahoo.com

14. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Vincenzo Pasquantonio

New Orleans

vpasquantonio@gmail.com

15. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Stephen Rosenthal

Srosenthal1000@gmail.com

16. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

judeottawa@icloud.com

17. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Rob Verchick (he/him)

Gauthier-St. Martin Chair in Environmental Law

Loyola University New Orleans

Frances B. Cashin Fellow

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

Harvard University

mobile: 504.352.2397

rverchick@icloud.com

18. Dear Governor Landry,

The Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) is arguably the state's MOST SIGNIFICANT success since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the state in 2005. Please don't mess with what isn't broken. Placing CPRA under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is an unwelcome move that could greatly harm its effectiveness and single-minded focus on its mission: combatting coastal erosion, the NUMBER ONE threat to the state.

Reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board is likewise unwelcome, threatening to rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please, please do not restructure the CPRA.

Frank.rabalais@icloud.com

19. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Mtumishi St. Julien

Mtumishi@thesifa.com

20. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Rose LaLanne

roselalan@earthlink.net

21. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Jim Peckenpaugh

starletforadm@me.com

22. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Susan Levin

Sclevin18@att.net

23. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Julie Ray

stingjray@earthlink.net

24. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Linda Bordelon

bordelonlinda@gmail.com

25. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Ellen Frischhertz

Ellen.frisc@gmail.com

26. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Rosalind Hinton, PhD

rosalindhinton@mac.com

cell: 312-209-2009

750 Delachaise Street

New Orleans, LA

Cultural Editor, CrossCurrents

Wikipedia: RosPost

27. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Joan Doyle

Zulli1374@gmail.com

28. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Aimee Hayes

Aimee.hayes@gmail.com

29. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Hubie Vigreux

ubpie@yahoo.com

30. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a bad move. Complete capitulation to the a rapacious industry that the state should be regulating will end up hurting the state and its citizens.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Philip Cherry

pacherry@earthlink.net

31. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Hubie Vigreux

ubpie@yahoo.com

32. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Thank you,

Lawrence Carlisi

lcarlisi@gmail.com

33. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Pam Krennerich

pamkrennerich@icloud.com

34. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Judy Johnson

judy@jldinc.com

35. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Danielle Retif Barbara

Dmbarb75@gmail.com

36. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sue McNabb

suemcnabb@bellsouth.net

37. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

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Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Denise Berthiaume

3014 Ursulines Ave

New Orleans, LA 70119

denise@berthiaumeenterprises.com

38. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sincerely,

Jessica Broussard

Sent from my iPhone

jnikkibroussard@gmail.com

39. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

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Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Andree Connolle

connolle@me.com

40. Dear Governor Landry,

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And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Jacqueline Gold

jacquegold@gmail.com

41. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Bryce Teale

bryceteale@gmail.com

42. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Herb Sayas

hlabws@earthlink.net

43. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Julie Stagg

PO Box 56026

New Orleans, LA 70156

985-855-4820

jwstagg@gmail.com

44. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPad

Jill Varisco

jillvarisco@gmail.com

45. Dear Governor Landry,

CPRA has been a vital and successful entity since it has been functioning! It is an organization that we have come to trust has the common good and pure motivation at

its core! Do not try to “fix” what is not broken! CPRA is a success story for our treasured state!

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Laura Perez

laura@perezweb.net

46. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Joan Jensen

jjensen@tulane.edu

47. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from Mail for Windows

Jackie Shreves

jackie@jackieshreves.com

48. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Jacqueline Bullock

jamahebu@bellsouth.net

49. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA. It performs extremely well as is and does not need interference from you or your political appointees.

Dr. Norman L. Whitley

4770 Music Street

New Orleans, LA 70122

Sent by NLW

NLwhitley53@cox.net

50. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Kalpana Saxena

ksaxena@trinitynola.com

51. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Thank you.

Susan Lauterbach

4470 Spain St

New Orleans, LA 70122

sklauterbach@att.net

52. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Dee Boling

6522 Argonne Blvd.

New Orleans, LA 70124

"When there are dogs and music, people have a good time." -- Emmylou Harris

drummeyd@yahoo.com

53. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from Mail for Windows

Bob Ann

jobopps@cox.net

54. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

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Please do not restructure the CPRA.

W. Philip Clinton
1513 Exposition Blvd
New Orleans, La. 70118
504-723-8617
Sent from my iPhone
philipclinton@msn.com

55. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.
And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.
Please do not restructure the CPRA.
Sent from my iPhone
Heather Knight
Heather_knight@hotmail.com

56. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.
And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.
Please do not restructure the CPRA.
D&C Enterprises
Dandcenterprises78@gmail.com

57. Please see attached Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation response letter to Executive Order JML-13.
Madison Plaisance
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation
Commodity and Public Policy Director
Cell: (225)-469-5543
MadisonP@LFBF.org



Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.

7000 Commerce Circle • Baton Rouge, LA 70809 | P.O. Box 95004 • Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004
O: (225) 922-6200 | lafarmbureau.org

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Jeffrey M. Landry
Office of the Governor
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The following is an official response of public comment to **Executive Order Number JML 24-13: Consolidation of Natural Resources and Energy Related Executive Branch Functions, Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities**

Dear Governor Landry,

On behalf of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, I extend our sincere appreciation to comment on your recent Executive Order JML 24-13, aimed at enhancing efficiency and effectiveness within the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources, as well as related agencies and boards. We acknowledge and support the need for periodic review of agencies and policies to better serve the interests of our state and its resources.

We appreciate efforts to streamline processes and improve coordination within governmental entities. We also wish, during this period of reflection, to emphasize the vital role that agriculture plays in Louisiana's economy and environment. As such, we respectfully urge that any reorganization efforts ensure the continued representation and active participation of agricultural stakeholders, including the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, on boards and commissions relevant to natural resources and energy matters.

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation has a longstanding commitment to advocating for the interests of our state's agricultural community. Our participation on various boards and commissions allows Louisiana farmers and ranchers to provide valuable insights and perspectives directly from their family businesses that contribute to informed decision-making and the development of policies that support both agricultural sustainability and overall state prosperity.

We believe that maintaining a seat and a voice for agriculture on these boards and commissions is essential for ensuring that the unique needs and challenges faced by our farmers, ranchers, and rural communities are adequately considered in the formulation of policies and regulations affecting natural resources and energy sectors. Moreover, the inclusion of agricultural perspectives fosters balanced approaches to resource management and environmental stewardship. As you move forward with the implementation of the executive order, we respectfully request that you consider the continued representation of agricultural interests as an integral component of the reorganization process.

Jim Harper
President

Marty Wooldridge
1st Vice-President

Scott Wiggers
2nd Vice-President

Richard Fontenot
3rd Vice-President

Michael Melancon
Secretary/Treasurer



Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.

7000 Commerce Circle • Baton Rouge, LA 70809 | P.O. Box 95004 • Baton Rouge, LA 70895-9004
O: (225) 922-6200 | lafarmbureau.org

We stand ready to collaborate with your administration and relevant stakeholders to ensure that the voices of Louisiana's agricultural community are heard and respected. Thank you once again for your leadership and dedication to the well-being of our state. We look forward to working together to build a sustainable and prosperous future for Louisiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Harper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jim Harper
President
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation

Jim Harper
President

Marty Wooldridge
1st Vice-President

Scott Wiggers
2nd Vice-President

Richard Fontenot
3rd Vice-President

Michael Melancon
Secretary/Treasurer

58. Please see attached letter - public comments on issues for review. Thank you.

Jennifer VanValkenburg

Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District

3074 Westfork Drive, Suite A

Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Jennifer.van@la.gov

Office: 225.293.7370



GARY J. BEARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CAPITAL AREA GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Tyler Patrick Gray, Secretary
Department of Energy and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 94396
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Natural Resources Steering Commission (NRSC)– Schedule of Review Department Review for Innovative and Visionary Enhancement (DRIVE)

Dear Secretary Gray:

As the executive director for Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission/District (“Commission”), I am writing to provide a public comment responding to your letter dated March 14, 2024.

The Commission was legislatively established in 1974 for the purposes of the orderly utilization of groundwater resources as a matter of public interest.¹ The Commission’s mission is to provide for the efficient administration, conservation, orderly development and supplementation of groundwater resources by the establishment of a Groundwater Conservation District composed of the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.² The board shall work with the Commissioner of Conservation in his responsibilities to do all things necessary to prevent waste of groundwater resources, and to prevent or alleviate damaging or potentially damaging subsidence of the land surface caused by withdrawal of groundwater within the district.³ The Commission is a self-sustaining entity that does not use state funds for operational expenses. The state funds we are using are from Capital Outlay for the installation of monitoring systems along the fault line to evaluate the saltwater intrusion issue through the jurisdiction of the District.

Board members of the Commission represent a diverse group throughout the District. Members include: a member from each parish, industrial members, private/public water furnishing entities, Mayor-President of East Baton Rouge Parish designees, Commissioner of Conservation or designee, Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Louisiana Cattlemen’s Association, and the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality or designee.

¹ La R.S. 38:3071.A.

² La R.S. 38:3071.B.

³ La R.S. 38:3076.A.

Throughout history these members have played an essential role providing representation of the people to whom the water belongs.

The Commission's jurisdiction covers a majority of the Southern Hills Aquifer System. The Southern Hills Aquifer System spans approximately 14,000 square miles of southeast Louisiana and southwest Mississippi. It is a system made up of alternating layers of water separated by barrier materials much like a layer cake. There are as many as 13 layers that contain water throughout the system. In the Baton Rouge area there are about 10 that are recognized as important for public consumption and industrial use, with most of the water for public consumption sourced from the 1,500 and 2,000-foot aquifer layers ("sands").⁴ The Southern Hills Aquifer System is facing a saltwater intrusion issue from excessive pumping in the potable sand layers. The Commission is in the process of having meters installed on all wells within the District, which will then send data to the Water Institute of the Gulf and their partners, LSU and USGS, to develop a long-term plan for the conservation and protection of the people's water. This will provide an in-depth understanding of the health of the aquifer, by sand, and enable the Commission to make decisions in order to manage saltwater intrusion into the sands used for public consumption and for industry.

Following a scathing Legislative Auditor's report in 2019, I was hired as the new executive director to affect change by implementing new projects to fulfill the Commission's mission of protecting, conserving, and preserving groundwater as described above. In addition to the installation of independent meters on all wells, the District is also pursuing the extensive monitoring of water levels, water quality and land subsidence, as well as establishing water reuse facilities to provide an alternative to groundwater. The Commission has worked closely with the Commissioner of Conservation, the AG's office, and DOA in achieving this goal. All Commission meetings are open to the public and advertised in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Stakeholders regularly attend these meetings and provide valuable public comments to the Commission for consideration. This is government "of, by, and for the people" in action.

The Commission's authority stems from its responsibility to protect groundwater resources as mandated by the Public Trust Doctrine requiring the legislature to implement laws that protect, conserve, and replenish Louisiana's natural resources. The water within the Southern Hills Aquifer System belongs to the people within its jurisdictional boundaries. The people and entities who utilize this water should be the ones to have a say over how it is protected, conserved, and replenished.

Following the Public Trust Doctrine, it is imperative that the Commission membership stays in the hands of the stakeholders and beneficiaries of the groundwater. The concern with the restructuring of this political subdivision is that it will inevitably take away local governance, where our communities would no longer have the ability to be involved in the use or management of their water resource. The people and businesses within the District should be able to jointly make decisions regarding the use and conservation of their precious resource.

⁴ "About The Southern Hills Aquifer System - The Water Institute." *Thewaterinstitute.org*, thewaterinstitute.org/groundwater/about-the-southern-hills-aquifer. Accessed 22 Mar. 2024.

I understand that your goal is to consolidate organizations that are duplicative, but as you can see by this letter, the Commission provides a vitally important service to Southern Hills Aquifer System stakeholders and beneficiaries. It is the only entity charged with doing the work necessary to protect, conserve, and preserve the Southern Hills Aquifer System. The goal is to provide future generations with a pristine source of high-quality water.

I appreciate the opportunity to give public comments on this matter and look forward to collaborating with you in a joint effort to protect the valuable resources of the people of Louisiana.

Sincerely,



Gary Beard, Executive Director
Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District

59. Good afternoon-

Attached, please find comments on JML 24-13 and subsequent March 11 and 14 letters. Please let me know if you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Thank you,

Amanda

National Wildlife Federation

Amanda R. Moore

Sr. Director, Gulf Program

(504) 273-4838 (o)

(504) 442-2702 (m)

moorea@nwf.org

www.nwf.org

www.mississippiriverdelta.org

Uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world



National Wildlife Federation

South Central Regional Center

3801 Canal Street, Suite 325 • New Orleans, LA 70119 • 504-708-5862

March 28, 2024

RE: Executive Order JML-13: Consolidation of Natural Resources and Energy Executive Branch Functions, Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities

Dear Secretary Gray,

On behalf of our seven million members and supporters, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) submits these comments regarding *JML-13: Consolidation of Natural Resources and Energy Executive Branch Functions, Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities* and the two subsequent letters from Governor Landry on March 11 and your letter to Gordon Dove on March 14. NWF has been invested and active in advancing coastal Louisiana restoration for decades. A healthy coast is essential for people and wildlife, and we are immensely proud of all that has been accomplished in Louisiana. We look forward to continuing our efforts to build resilience and advance nature-based solutions with our many partners across the coast.

NWF appreciates the opportunity to participate in this important process to determine the future structure of the Natural Resources and Energy agencies and offices for the State of Louisiana. We have a great deal of experience working with the State on coastal efforts and have a strong perspective on this topic.

Prioritization of the Coast

A strong, unified voice for the coast is crucial in Louisiana, which is in a coastal crisis, facing some of the highest land loss rates in the world. The vulnerabilities created by this crisis come at a heavy price – our economy, public safety and culture are on the line. The current set-up of the state's coastal agency was borne out of extremely difficult lessons learned during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. We must not forget those lessons, with so many communities not only still

in recovery from those storms and others, but also potentially facing stronger and more frequent storms with each passing hurricane season.

The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) has proven to be a great success for Louisiana: a model for science-based planning and innovation, engaging broad stakeholders in their efforts and leveraging hundreds of millions of dollars for resilience projects. Indeed, the rest of the nation and the world looks to CPRA when planning their own resilience efforts. The prioritization of the Louisiana coast is embodied in the CPRA and its current, stand-alone structure.

The effectiveness of Louisiana's Coastal Program is anchored in public education and engagement, science-based planning and strategic policy efforts.

Public Outreach & Engagement

NWF has worked closely with CPRA for the last 15 years to ensure strong public outreach, education and engagement happen in an accessible way for Louisiana residents across the coast. This is a foundational component to a long-standing, legitimate and impactful coastal program. In Louisiana, the public is supremely aware of the importance of the healthy coast, and the critical need for large-scale restoration and protection. This is in part due to the repeated impacts of storms and the land loss rate, but it is also due to the state's commitment to the coast. The state has formed broad partnerships and invested in its outreach and educational programs. This has proven effective in maintaining strong, broad-based support for coastal restoration. Statewide polling consistently shows the coast as a top priority for all Louisianians. From industry to chambers of commerce, to community groups, to NGOs, to the faith community, to sportsmen and academia – a healthy coast is top of mind. This continued level of education and engagement is the key to the longevity and effectiveness of the coastal program.

We urge you to maintain and extend the coastal program's commitment and capacity for stakeholder outreach and engagement as it moves forward.

Science-Based Planning

The decisions we must make about restoring the coast are multi-faceted, with many competing stakeholders and resource limitations. Therefore, in addition to considering the various perspectives and funding and policy constraints, we must

be guided by science to make the best decisions and avoid chaotic and inefficient processes. Providing a healthy and vibrant ecosystem that supports a variety of habitats, culture, recreation and ecosystem services like storm surge attenuation through restoration efforts and keeping communities safe from flooding through structural protection requires careful modeling and analysis—a process grounded and guided by science.

A science-based process, like the Coastal Master Plan process, is what allows us to do the most good with the limited resources we have in a way that is fair to stakeholders. Restoring the delta has inherent dilemmas, but the public trust can be maintained with a transparent, science-based process that is well-informed and forward-looking.

We urge you to maintain a science-based approach to coastal decision making.

Strategic Policy Efforts

In the last decade, CPRA's broadly supported, science-based and transparent processes have shined when it comes to securing funding for restoration needs. Because of the top-notch Coastal Master Plan, federal agencies and decision-makers have shown great confidence in Louisiana's ability to use restoration resources wisely and this has helped the state garner major funding for key restoration and protection projects. As competition for federal disaster recovery dollars increases, Louisiana's impressive program will be critical to securing future funding.

Louisiana must ensure clear and consistent communication at the federal level about the needs of the coast, showcasing world-class planning efforts and outstanding public support to continue the advancement of coastal projects. Outreach and consistent communication are also important for decision-makers at the state and local levels, to ensure an educated dialogue and broad support for the coastal program.

We urge you to enhance Louisiana's coastal representation and engagement with federal, state and local decision-makers to continue sharing its successes and making the case for continued support.

Consolidation Process

Louisiana's coastal program is a high priority for many, including the National Wildlife Federation, and potential changes will have major ramifications for

critically important and urgent work. Please ensure transparency in this consideration of consolidation. Ensure clear deadlines and goals are publicly accessible. Ensure decisions, like the recent shift in the CPRA board and Governor's Office of Coastal Activities (GOCA) are explained.

Strong leadership and adequate resources are essential for the work ahead. Please ensure the capacity and resources that are needed are provided to continue advancement of coastal efforts. We know the coastal program is highly impactful when properly resourced and prioritized. We must maintain a high-level of functionality to meet the coastal challenges facing Louisiana.

We urge you to maintain transparency with the public as you consider consolidating the coastal program.

Other Proposed Changes to Natural Resources Management

While the majority of this letter concerns proposed changes to the state's coastal program, the National Wildlife Federation is also deeply invested in issues of land and water conservation and management, as well as the future of energy. Given the scope and scale of the changes alluded to and the expedited timeline referred to in the March correspondence, we urge LDENR and the Governor to explain and detail the plans being discussed. As we seek to offer feedback on these issues, we'd appreciate information regarding the Administration's concerns with existing governance structures of the state's critical natural resources, the solutions proposed, and the vision that those changes are in service of. We hope our organization, with its strong Louisiana presence and access to national expertise, can be a resource to the state as it seeks to better tackle flood risk, the evolution of the energy sector, and other conservation issues in ways that work with nature for the betterment of people, the economy and the environment.

Conclusion

The National Wildlife Federation has long referred to Louisiana CPRA as the model for effectiveness and dedication to restoration and resilience. We greatly value our partnership with CPRA. NWF would like to see CPRA continue as a stand-alone entity, because it is already proven efficient and the current structure is working. If shifts in structure do occur at CPRA and within other elements of the state's natural resources management, we ask that transparency, robust public involvement, science-based planning, and strategic

policy efforts continue to be uplifted. Without a high-priority and powerful coastal program, we risk our economy, our safety, our culture, and our wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda R. Moore". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Amanda R. Moore
Senior Director, Gulf Program
National Wildlife Federation

60. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Katie Derby

504 400-0316 cell

504 283-0021 home

61. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Barbara LaNasa

blanasa@cox.net

62. THANK YOU, GOV. LANDRY, FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON YOUR PROPOSED PLAN TO PLACE CPRA UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES. WE, THE WOMEN OF THE STORM, A NON-PROFIT, NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION COMPOSED OF DIVERSE WOMEN FROM ACROSS THE METROPOLITAN AREA AND SOUTH LOUISIANA, ARE OPPOSED TO THIS PROPOSITION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. THIS AUTHORITY WAS EXPRESSLY CREATED BY STATUTE IN 2005 TO BE INDEPENDENT AND LED BY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. REMOVING THIS INDEPENDENCE DIMINISHES THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL AGENCIES IN STATE GOVERNMENT.

2. THE WOMEN OF THE STORM WALKED THE HALLS OF CONGRESS IN 2006 URGING ITS MEMBERS TO PASS THE GOMESA BILL. THE KEY SELLING POINT WAS THAT THE DOLLARS WOULD BE PUT UNDER CPRA AND USED SOLELY FOR COASTAL RESTORATION AND PROTECTION. CPRA'S INDEPENDENCE WAS CRITICAL TO GETTING GOMESA PASSED! AFTER THE BP OIL SPILL, AGAIN HAVING AN INDEPENDENT CPRA

UNENCUMBERED FROM GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY, ALLOWED US TO RECEIVE THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FROM THIS DISASTER.

3. THIS PROPOSITION DILUTES AND DIMINISHES CPRA. DON'T BURY CPRA IN A REGULATORY AGENCY THAT HAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MISSION. PLACING CPRA IN A BUREAUCRATIC QUAGMIRE IS NOT WHAT LOUISIANA AND ITS CITIZENS DESERVE.

4. IT'S NOT BROKEN...DON'T FIX IT! CPRA CONTINUES TO MAKE RECORD BREAKING INVESTMENTS IN OUR COAST. THESE PROJECTS ARE A RESULT OF THE SCIENCE LED PLANNING OF THE "MASTER PLAN." EVERY FIVE YEARS THE CPRA MASTER PLAN HAS HAD THE UNANIMOUS BLESSING OF THE ENTIRE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE. WHY RISK UNDERMINING WHAT HAS BEEN SO HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL WITH SUPPORT FROM BOTH OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR CONSTITUENTS?

WE APPRECIATE YOUR DESIRE TO STREAMLINE GOVERNMENT BUT THIS IS NOT THE ANSWER.

THE DANGER OF MERGING CPRA UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES NOT ONLY ADDS BUREAUCRACY BUT CREATES POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. THE CURRENT STRUCTURE ENSURES INDEPENDENCE AND TRANSPARENCY. IT IS OUR HOPE YOU WILL GIVE CPRA YOUR UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT AND LET IT CONTINUE FULFILLING ITS SERIOUS MISSION ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF LOUISIANA.

SINCERELY,

ANNE M. MILLING

FOUNDER, WOMEN OF THE STORM

5048818627

Amilling504@gmail.com

63. Stakeholder Information:

Full Name: Mark S Davis

Louisiana Resident: Yes

E-Mail Address: msdavis@tulane.edu

Organization (if applicable): Tulane Law School

Make a Case for Change:

Identify the Issue

What is the specific issue you are addressing? LDENR reorganization

How has or may it impacted you? Your organization? Our input was invited

Legal Framework

Is the issue a legal one? If so, is it addressed in the constitution? That question is premature at this time.

Does it fall under existing statutes? Regulations? See comment below

Historical Analysis

Include as much history of the relevant issue, rule or law using specific dates, relevant references, citations, etc. See comment below

Did the program your comment concerns change over time? Did it evolve into associated programs? See comment below

Provide historical context and perspective. Dear Secretary Gray, We appreciate being invited to provide comments on the governmental reorganization ideas set forth in Governor Landry's March 11 letter to you and in your letter to Gordon Dove of March 14. These comments are in addition to the comments we filed submitted on February 21, which we would like to incorporate here by reference. We would like to preface our more specific comments below with a general observation; from the Governor's letter to Secretary Gray and your letter to Mr. Dove, it is unclear whether general public comment is being requested. If it is not, we strongly urge that given the scope of the Governor's proposal it would be advisable. Regardless of the range of comments being sought, the ambiguity surrounding the specifics of what is being proposed, make it challenging for the public to provide meaningful feedback. For example, the correspondence refers to the DRIVE Initiative but does not provide any details regarding its nature and purpose, at least from the Governor's perspective. The DRIVE Initiative is mentioned in your February 23, 2024, letter to the Governor, but the letter does not outline its formation. Indeed, that letter recommends that the Governor create a committee to lead the review of state governmental offices and activities, a recommendation that the Governor, in fact, rejects in favor of a commission in his March 11 letter. At this time, there is simply no way to comment on that Initiative as we are unclear of its existence. Similarly, the Governor's letter mentions in several places things he plans to do but does not say how or when he will do them. 1. The first paragraph of the Governor's letter says that he "will be establishing the Natural Resources Steering Committee to comprehensively review and coordinate all aspects of natural resources management in the state of Louisiana". Yet, it remains unclear whether a steering committee has been established. All discussion of the NRSC in the Governor's letter is prospective, although your letter to Mr. Dove states that the Governor "has established the NRSC to oversee the DRIVE Initiative". There is a fundamental inconsistency between those two letters that needs to be resolved. Until more is revealed, there is not much to comment on other than to express concerns over what the DRIVE Initiative might entail. 2. With respect to the Governor's Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities, the Governor's letter requests the delegation of the Executive Assistant's duties to the Secretary of LDENR. It is not at all clear what this means. Who is the Governor directing this request to? If it is to you as Secretary, it seems beyond the scope of what a Department Secretary can do. If it is to the legislature, when might that be done and what might that look like? One thing is clear, and that is the Governor's language does not actually designate you to be the Executive Assistant in addition to your duties as LDENR Secretary. If the Governor were to take that path it would be important to distinguish between your duties as one versus other as they are quite different. In addition to those general observations, we have several specific comments and questions about the Governor's proposals. 1. As noted before,

the Governor's letter expresses his intention to create a Natural Resources Steering Commission but he does not actually create it or say what its mission will be other than to say it will "act in accordance with the goals of organizational alignment, efficiency and coordination, emergency response, standardization of policies and guidelines, clarifying relationships..." Notably, those goals are not actually mentioned. The NRSC (again, not yet formally created)) is directed to work with the legislature to permanently establish the NRSC within LDENR and supply it with the "necessary authority to work through details of further coordination and/or consolidation of the natural resources regulatory, enforcement, management, and support functions of the State in the future". In its current form, this does not offer sufficient clarity for the reader to grasp its implications or discern which natural resources are encompassed within its scope. Adding to the challenge, the letter suggests coordinating with the as-yet-unestablished NRSC to advocate for a comprehensive set of alterations to the management of natural resources, including potential legislative adjustments.

2. The Governor's letter directs the Secretary of LDENR to create within LDENR "the clear enforcement agency for all state and federally-delegated programs ...for natural resources matters". The cross reference makes it clear that this includes all natural resources except timber and fish/wildlife and their habitats. The letter also, under the heading of "Office of Conservation", directs the Secretary and NRSC to "re-establish" (presumably within LDENR's Office of Conservation, though that is unclear) and "transfer all responsibility for permitting, compliance, and regulatory functions for natural resources-related programs in the Executive Branch." Presumably, this would be to the Office of Conservation though that, too, is unclear. This would seem to move all air, soil and water enforcement to LDENR and away from DEQ, DOTD, and LDH (and possibly other agencies). Indeed, this would effectively terminate those other Executive Branch agencies. Is that the intention? If so, the public deserves a direct announcement and an open discussion about it that explains why it is desirable, legal, cost-effective and administratively efficient. We question whether this is even possible without enabling legislation and without federal approval for the delegated programs. The rationale for such sweeping change has never been articulated and would need to be given the confusion and uncertainty that would likely ensue. We appreciate that the legislation recasting the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources as the Department of Energy and Natural Resources (R.S. 36:351) authorizes the Secretary of LDENR to propose to the legislature the elimination, merger, consolidation of existing offices or the creation of new offices, but nothing in that language suggests the elimination of other state agencies and the subordination of their missions to that of LDENR.

3. The Governor states in his letter that though the CPRA Board appears to be balanced it is "in fact " not balanced, and he directs you as Secretary of LDENR to pursue a statutory amendment to optimize the implementation of coastal projects by reducing overlap between CPRA and the cabinet. Without knowing what the Governor means by the CPRA Board being "in fact unbalanced" and what sort of balance he seeks, it is impossible to comment

constructively on this—other than to raise red flags until more is known. It is also not possible to comment on how his proposed rebalancing would relate to optimizing the implementation of coastal projects. If he has information about how the CPRA Board structure is impairing the implementation of coastal projects, that information should be shared before proposing to change it. All in all, this seems to be a nonsolution to a nonproblem. 4. The Governor’s letter calls for the sunseting of arguably all natural resources related boards and commissions, including some with legislatively created functions (e.g. Water Resources Commission and State Mineral Board). This directive, however, lacks specificity and clarity, offering little substantive guidance. While we acknowledge that some boards and commissions are ripe for re-evaluation and even elimination, the broad nature of the Governor’s directive implies a sweeping overhaul which warrants more detailed consideration, particularly given the absence of guidance regarding subsequent steps. At the least, no action should be taken on this front until the NRSC is fully authorized and operational. 5. With respect to the creation of an Office of Land & Water Management within LDENR, the Governor is correct to identify this as an area that demands greater attention and coordination and that LDENR is the natural home for it in state government. That expansion of responsibility will come with changes in the laws governing water use and management that will be transformative for the state and LDENR. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the Department and the Governor’s office to better understand and prepare for a time when water is seen as a strategic natural resource on par with energy resources under Louisiana law and within the Department. That day is fast approaching. We offer these comments in a spirit of constructive engagement and hope they prove valuable to the ongoing discussions. We would welcome the opportunity to further explore these points with you. As the Governor's governance vision and priorities, as well as our understanding of them, continue to evolve, we anticipate additional opportunities to contribute our insights. In conclusion, we advise exercising caution against rushing into extensive changes prematurely. Governance entails serious considerations, and any efforts to reorganize government should be approached with due diligence. The Governor's Executive Order JML 13-24 and the related correspondence prompt two fundamental inquiries: What specific governance challenges is the Governor aiming to address, and how will the proposed changes resulting from this unprecedented reorganization endeavor enhance the functioning of our government? Put simply, how will these initiatives lead to a government that truly reflects the best interests of the people of Louisiana? We believe these pivotal questions ought to be addressed comprehensively before proceeding with the proposed reorganization. Respectfully Submitted, Mark S. Davis Director, Tulane Center for Environmental Law msdavis@tulane.edu Christopher J. Dalbom Director, Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy

Conclusion

Why should your proposed changes be implemented? See comment above

Use specific details to support the case. See comment above

Reference relevant citations to strengthen your argument. See comment above

Public Meetings Attendance

Would you be interested in attending stakeholder meeting(s)? Virtual, In-Person

64. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Theresa Dendinger

theresadendinger@yahoo.com

65. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

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Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPad

Susan Levin

Naturespirit18@gmail.com

66. Dear Governor Landry,

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Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Donald Miller

houseofboo@cox.net

67. Dear Governor Landry,

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Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Jill Cannon

jilcannon@icloud.com

68. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone Barbara Tereso I apologize for typos!

teresobarbara@gmail.com

69. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

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Sent from my iPhone

Donald Miller

houseofboo@cox.net

70. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Brenda Delle

bdelle@gmail.com

71. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Anne K LaRock

2815 Bell St

New Orleans, LA 70119

annie@larock.com

72. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

Reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA, and DO NOT reverse the policies that our region depends on for its long term safety and security.

Daniel N Silverman

River Ridge, LA

504-616-5903

dsilverm@aol.com

73. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Marc PoKempner
5722 Dauphine St.
New Orleans, LA 70117
ph 773-525-4567
marc@pokempner.net

74. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Lynette J.

lfjudge@gmail.com

75. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

John Koefel

johnkoefel@gmail.com

76. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA. I am a resident of this state who has already suffered from the effects of flooding. We need this advice!!

Dee Boling

6522 Argonne Blvd.

New Orleans 70124

"When there are dogs and music, people have a good time." -- Emmylou Harris

drummeyd@yahoo.com

77. Dear Governor Landry, Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents. And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free. Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Linda Jenkins

lmjenkinsla@yahoo.com

78. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.
And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.
Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Kevin Smith

Kevin.smith@ldi.la.gov

79. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.
And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.
Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Andree Connolle

connolle@me.com

80. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

As someone who experienced significant damage, including the loss of my home, in 2 storms (Katrina and Ida), and whose family was displaced by Katrina, I urge you to continue to listen to our voices in reconsidering this plan. Reminds me of the short-sightedness named in that commercial “ pay me now, or pay me later. “. The “later” price comes with significant suffering.

Thank you.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

cyntcha@aol.com

81. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Jana Napoli

jananaps@gmail.com

82. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Respectfully,

Sally Hoffmann

Sent from my iPhone

sallyndh@aol.com

83. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA. Don't change something that is already working.

Sent from my iPad

Elaine Schwartz

Eschwartz5@gmail.com

84. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

panjacesnana@cox.net

85. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Thank you,

Lisa Guillory

New Orleans

Sent from my iPhone

Lguillory2@cox.net

86. Dear Governor Landry, Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents. And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free. Please do not restructure the CPRA.

misalmas@aol.com

87. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Turnerjema

turnerjema@aol.com

88. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

julieschwamh@gmail.com

89. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Beverly Cook

bcook@alcs.org

90. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Kim LeBlanc

kleblanc6@bellsouth.net

91. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

W. Philip Clinton

504-723-8617

philipclinton@msn.com

92. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Maureen Stein

mwsteinmd@cox.net

93. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Desiree Durham

Deswest1122@gmail.com

94. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPad

Fred J Smith Jr

labamabulldog@aol.com

95. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Nancy Solomon

Beanqueen50@yahoo.com

96. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sent from my iPhone

Kelly Ardoin

Cf.ardoin@gmail.com

97. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

This agency must remain independent and a source of reliable information on our state's coast and its future. Combining it with an agency focused on energy production and oil and gas industries is unwise and unacceptable.

Sincerely,

Wendy King

2100 St. Charles Ave., #9J

New Orleans LA 70130

Wking70118@yahoo.com

98. Dear Governor Landry,

Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.

And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.

Please do not restructure the CPRA.

Sincerely

Judy Filipkowski

Jude2ottawa@icloud.com

99. To whom it may concern,

I hope this email finds you well and in good health and spirits.

I have attached the Environmental Defense Fund's Comment Letter regarding the Executive Order JML-13 March Update from Secretary Gray. Please feel free to forward any additional information or updates on this matter to all cc'd above. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and hope to continue to have these opportunities. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

Bria M. Calvin (she/her)

Project Manager, Louisiana Political Affairs

bcalvin@EDF.org

EDF.org | A vital Earth. For everyone.



March 29, 2024

Tyler Gray

Secretary

Department of Energy and Natural Resources

P.O. Box 94396

Baton Rouge, LA

Re: Executive Order JML 24-13 DRIVE Initiative

Creation of the Natural Resources Steering Commission

The Environmental Defense Fund is grateful for the chance to comment on Executive Order JML 24-13 DRIVE Initiative, Creation of the Natural Resources Steering Commission and is following up individually on comments we submitted with partners from Restore the Mississippi River Delta. The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is a leading international, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment by effectively applying science, economics, law, and innovative private-sector partnerships. The EDF Climate Resilient Coasts and Watersheds team collaborates to build climate resilience for high-risk coastal and watershed ecosystems in our focus regions, by centering communities and areas most vulnerable to climate change-induced flooding. By harnessing nature's protective power with natural infrastructure, supporting communities most at risk, catalyzing research, finance, and policy, our team is working to create a more resilient, equitable, and prosperous future, despite intensifying climate threats.

Our comments seek to provide additional context and recommendations about the coastal-related portions of the DRIVE Initiative while examining the potential opportunities within the pieces related to regulatory reforms. We appreciate the administration's efforts to find efficiencies within our government and urge that this process is done with the care and robust community input needed to ensure the best outcomes for Louisiana's people, economies, and bountiful natural resources.

Keep Coastal Resilience a Top Priority

Louisiana's coast is in crisis and there is no time to lose in the implementation of the state's 2023 Coastal Master Plan. There is literally no time to take our collective eye off that ball. CPRA was organized in 2007 with that clear understanding – because it was absolutely essential that focus and efficiency be defining characteristics of Louisiana's coastal protection and restoration efforts. As close observers and participants in, and even occasional critics of our coastal efforts



over the life of CPRA, we are very pleased and proud to say that CPRA has likely been the most focused, efficient, and effective agency within state government during that period of time. In fact, CPRA is a national model for other states as they attempt to replicate Louisiana's successful approach to science-based flood mitigation.

A significant component of that success has been the science-based approach which allowed for clear criteria for decision making, particularly when political issues could have undercut the approach. As important though, has been the centralized, focused approach within CPRA, and leadership directly from the Office of the Governor. The combination of clear criteria and measurement for projects, and direct and efficient decision making at the top, are things we would recommend as models across state government. Within the context of the proposed Drive Initiative, we would also say that the biggest mistake that could be made would be in moving away from that model. In particular, those mistakes would stem from breaking up or watering down CPRA's structure, methods and approach. Our biggest concern is the vast implications that would and could occur if CPRA were forced to shift its focus away from its mission, and toward a merging of functions with the Department of Energy and Natural Resources (DENR). The coastal issue is too large and too important to the future of Louisiana to risk diluting the agency that has literally led the way on coastal resilience planning for decades.

Part of the intent of the DRIVE Initiative is to help DENR learn from the success and administrative efficiency of the CPRA. While we agree that this learning is a worthy goal, we strongly believe that seeking to merge CPRA into DENR is not the way to do this. Other ideas exist for such learning: for example, there are opportunities and resources available as part of [Act 315 of the Regular Session 2023](#) that establishes an Interagency Resilience Coordination Team comprised of Agency Resiliency Officers and the Louisiana Resilience Task Force that can facilitate an improved flow of information and coordination across DENR and CPRA. EDF supported the Chief Resilience Officer and Task Force then and would point to findings from the [2023 Louisiana Statewide Annual Resilience Report](#) as an existing resource to meet some of the same objectives stated as part of the DRIVE Initiative.

In addition, one way to ensure coastal resilience is a top priority in the state is to maintain a well-balanced and widely representative CPRA board. Coastal land loss does not only affect our parishes along the coast, and it cannot be solved *only* by those with a direct connection to the coast. Maintaining all cabinet positions on the CPRA board demonstrates that coastal land loss is a broad problem and is a way to ensure that all parts of the government come together to contribute solutions. For example, maintaining the Commissioner of Insurance on the board is of vital importance, given the connection between Coastal Master Plan projects and their impact on insurance rates across the state. Further, the science-based decision making of the Coastal Master Plan process is a vital tool to communicating Louisianas efforts in preparing for coastal change to national and global insurers and reinsurers. Rather than remove the Commissioner from the Board, there should be an effort to better connect our coastal protection and restoration work into our efforts to address the insurance crises, because how we adapt and prepare for land loss, increased weather events, and sea level rise impacts the insurability of our



coastal communities, the vitality of our economies, and the lifespan and maintenance of key infrastructure assets.

Transparency and Timing

The initial 2007 decision to carve out the Coastal Protection and Restoration Agency (CPRA) was not done lightly nor was it implemented immediately. There was a coordinated, cross-agency effort that provided ample opportunities for stakeholder and public input to help shape the process and outcome. While we appreciate the opportunity to comment and the public website created to share updates and receive comments, it would be beneficial to allow for a longer window than 14 days for recommendations to be considered within a report. At least 30 days would provide more opportunities to engage the public and solicit feedback from stakeholders across the state.

Energy

Generally speaking, we support efforts to restructure Offices within the Department of Energy and Natural Resources to promote efficient, holistic, forward-thinking management of Louisiana's natural resources. Louisiana's changing energy landscape brings tremendous opportunity to build on the state's history as an energy producing state in a way that better serves our people and environment.

We support increased attention to and investment in capacity dedicated to regulatory oversight, compliance monitoring, and enforcement. An Office of Enforcement within the Department of Energy and Natural Resources has the potential to improve and prioritize compliance and enforcement activities, especially if matched with funding to properly staff and run such an Office. Illustrating capacity and willingness to regulate and enforce are key to any role Louisiana will play in evolving energy economies to satisfy global demands. Building out a robust compliance and enforcement program should be additional to ensuring permitting divisions are properly staffed, supported, and empowered to ensure rigorous review of project applications.

We look forward to continued engagement to learn more about the vision of the Landry administration and how we can contribute our expertise and experience to improve protection of our people, natural resources, and coast.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Will McDow in black ink.

Will McDow
Senior Director
Climate Resilient Coasts and Watersheds

Handwritten signature of Liz Russell in black ink.

Liz Russell
State Director, Louisiana

100. Please see attached letter from Pontchartrain Conservancy.

Kristi Trail, P.E.
Executive Director
Pontchartrain Conservancy
504-836-2215 (work)
504-352-8805 (mobile)
kristi@scienceforourcoast.org



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Zoila Osteicoechea

Natalie Robottom

Nick Trist III

David Waggonner

Robert Williamson

Kristi Trail

Executive Director

March 28, 2024

Mr. Clay Parker
Special Counsel
Governor's Office of Coastal Activities
Capitol Annex Building, Suite 138
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Re: Executive Order JML-13: Consolidation of Natural Resources and Energy Executive Branch Functions, Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities

Dear Mr. Parker:

The pace of coastal restoration implementation has reached an incredible milestone: over \$1.5 Billion a year over the past two years as shown in the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's *Integrated Ecosystem Restoration & Hurricane Protection in Coastal Louisiana Annual Plans*. Projections for the next three years bring much hope for the restoration and protection of our state's residents and wetlands ecosystems at the same incredible funding amounts as the past two years. We are excited about many coastal projects planned for the Pontchartrain Basin and across Louisiana's coast.

At Pontchartrain Conservancy (PC), our mission is to drive environmental sustainability and stewardship through scientific research, education, and advocacy. As long-standing coastal stakeholders with an interest in the re-organization process, we appreciate being included as you assist Department of Energy and Natural Resources' (DENR) in their work.

We are writing to you today to express some of our thoughts regarding the DENR's plans to re-organize their department and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) through the general process outlined in Executive Order JML 24-13 and further information contained in the two letters you recently shared with us, which is the focus of our comments today.

[NEW CANAL LIGHTHOUSE]

Education, Development & Outreach
8001 Lakeshore Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70124

[MAILING ADDRESS]

P.O. Box 6965
Metairie, LA 70009
504.836.2215 | ScienceForOurCoast.org

[CORPORATE OFFICE]

Coastal, Water Quality & GIS
3501 N. Causeway Blvd. Suite 220
Metairie, LA 70002

In Governor Landry’s letter to Secretary Gray dated March 11, 2024, we offer the following comments:

Generally speaking, the letter focuses mostly on DENR’s reorganization, including Office of Conservation, permitting, new internal groups created to manage water issues, state lands, and other tasks relevant to the department. We have no substantive comments on those items.

The newly created Natural Resources Steering Commission is of much interest to us. The inclusion of the Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities as one of the short list of key members seems to indicate that a final decision has already been made to roll CPRA under the DENR; otherwise the CPRA Board chairman would not need a say-so in DENR’s internal reorganization.

We believe that CPRA as the single state entity for implementing integrated coastal projects as defined in state law is the best way to ensure that the coastal program is viewed as a high priority in state government with the authority and autonomy to move quickly to address challenges facing our coast. The coastal land loss crisis underpins the future protection and economic viability of coastal communities across our state along with the protection and enhancement of important environmental ecosystems. Diminishing the CPRA to a sub-area of DENR could give the appearance that Louisiana is deprioritizing this critical body of work, which would be unfortunate.

Specifically, the section of the letter entitled “Balancing the CPRA Board” gives little information as to the rationale of removal of all of the listed state agencies from the board. From PC’s perspective, there is a direct link between the agency that manages all but the coastal area levee systems and some flood control operations, the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), and the CPRA Board. Also, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is a long-standing partner with CPRA on a variety of important issues related to coastal project implementation including fisheries issues, state owned water bottoms, and state-owned lands in the coastal area designated as WMAs or State Refuges on which coastal projects are regularly constructed. We would suggest that at a minimum, these two very important and related agencies remain on the CPRA Board to ensure that agency silos identified in many post-Katrina reports and discussions are not recreated now.

Lastly, directing CPRA to implement a plan to assist DENR by providing support for federal grant programs would take away time from the roughly 180 CPRA employees whose mission up to now has been solely focused on coastal protection and restoration work, including management of many ongoing large federal grants and programs. The CPRA is an efficient, competent agency, and we encourage the state to re-consider taking them away from that mission.

On Secretary Gray’s letter to Gordon Dove dated March 14, 2024, we offer the following comments:

The removal of nearly all the previous responsibilities of the Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities lead to questions about who will represent CPRA in Congress and with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Commerce, US Fish and Wildlife Service and other important entities in Washington DC as has been tradition in the past. During the last two decades the state of Louisiana has bolstered the work of, and the funding for, its coastal program through many such engagements by the Executive Assistant and his Executive Director, and key GOCA and CPRA implementation office

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8001 Lakeshore Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70124

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[CORPORATE OFFICE]

Coastal, Water Quality & GIS
3501 N. Causeway Blvd. Suite 220
Metairie, LA 70002

staff occurring several times a year. If the Secretary of DENR is to be the defacto head of CPRA, we are concerned that the visibility of CPRA with our federal partners and Louisiana delegation members may be limited moving forward due to the incredible number of time-consuming responsibilities the Secretary will oversee solely on behalf of DENR. The demanding role of CPRA leadership to regularly engage on behalf of the state's coastal program must be allowed to continue in a robust fashion if the state is to continue to implement large-scale restoration and protection projects fluidly and without delay.

Building support for and understanding of the state's coastal program is part of our advocacy work at PC. We have worked in this arena for 35 years and will continue to support coastal protection and restoration efforts for as long as the land loss crisis remains an issue to our state. To this end, we respectfully request that the CPRA and the science-based Coastal Master Plan continue to operate in the streamlined and effective ways it has been operating since the mid-2000's. The future of south Louisiana literally depends on it.

Again, we truly appreciate your reaching out to us and we look forward to continuing this dialogue as the work of DENR continues during 2024 Regular Session and beyond.

Sincerely,



Kristi Trail, P.E.
Executive Director

cc: Secretary Tyler Gray, Louisiana Department of Energy & Natural Resources

[NEW CANAL LIGHTHOUSE]

Education, Development & Outreach
8001 Lakeshore Dr.
New Orleans, LA 70124

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P.O. Box 6965
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[CORPORATE OFFICE]

Coastal, Water Quality & GIS
3501 N. Causeway Blvd. Suite 220
Metairie, LA 70002

101. Good afternoon,

Please see the attached document for further comments regarding Executive Order JML-13 on behalf members of the Restore the Mississippi River Delta coalition. We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Simone Maloz

Campaign Director

Restore the Mississippi River Delta

985-688-3290 (cell)

smaloz@mississippiriverdelta.org

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@RestoreDelta

March 28, 2024

RE: Executive Order JML-13: Consolidation of Natural Resources and Energy Executive Branch Functions, Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities

Dear Secretary Gray,

We write again on behalf of four of the coastal organizations that comprise the Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition, the Environmental Defense Fund, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, and the Pontchartrain Conservancy, who have been strong advocates for improving the resilience of Louisiana's coast and partners of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) since its earliest days. We received the correspondence between you and Gov. Landry and your letter to Chairman Dove regarding the next steps for E.O. JML 24-13, and we value your willingness to receive additional input from our groups and other key coastal stakeholders.

Our comments today reaffirm our central assertion: the protection and restoration of Louisiana's coast is an issue of fundamental importance to the future of Louisiana's communities and culture, economy, and ecosystems and must remain a priority for this administration and those to come. As you examine the responsibilities associated with the management of the state's coastal program, we offer the following suggestions and reminders.

Science-Based Planning

The foundation of Louisiana's successful and much-lauded approach to addressing its coastal crisis has been its commitment to a planning process guided by science and not politics. The challenges facing our coast are immense, and there is not enough funding to support meaningful solutions everywhere they are deserved. The process we have today has proven there can be no protection without restoration, and restoration projects alone cannot provide the level of protection that some communities need. Maintaining this balance between a healthy and vibrant ecosystem that supports habitats, culture, recreation, and ecosystem services and keeping communities safe from the ingress of storm surge is one that requires careful modeling and analysis—a process facilitated by scientific information.

Since time and natural resources are limited, each project that moves into implementation also represents a decision to not advance another project. The inherent conflict between the needs of different stakeholders, interest groups, and communities can only be held at bay by a fair, rigorous process that allows science to guide decisions and not power. This foundation and commitment to principled project selection allows for the projects that do get built to be successful and to provide the greatest return on investment, allowing the state to attract outside funding to support implementation of additional projects and encouraging the public's trust with every investment decision.

The Department of Energy and Natural Resources would benefit from adopting a similar approach to their own planning



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and project implementation and should loudly and clearly express its support for the continuation of a science-based approach to coastal decision making if CPRA is moved under its wing.

Broad Stakeholder Engagement

The second pillar of CPRA's planning and decision-making process is a commitment to stakeholder engagement. As we lose land to the Gulf of Mexico and hurricane storm surge vulnerability increases, the impacts are felt by everyone from the largest industrial facilities and urban areas to the smallest community and subsistence fisherman. These shared impacts have served to bridge political, regional, and issue divides among interest groups and united them behind the purpose of coastal protection and restoration. Members from varied groups have wisely been brought inside the master plan development process and are subsequently maintained through consistent communications and engagement throughout the course of regular business.

Outside of the context of the private sector and civil society, the continued loss of land and the accumulation of project benefits also carry additional implications for federal and state agencies' missions, assets, and constituencies. CPRA's effective and broad stakeholder engagement has also drawn in new supporters and funders from national philanthropic, advocacy, and research groups.

The Department of Energy and Natural Resources should maintain and extend the coastal program's commitment and capacity for stakeholder engagement as it moves forward.

Consistent Representation in Congress, with Federal Agencies, and to the Louisiana Legislature

The devastating impacts of the 2005 hurricane season that precipitated the creation of the CPRA Board and implementation agency also yielded many positive federal actions including the appropriation of significant funding for response and recovery, \$14.5 billion for the upgraded hurricane risk reduction system for the Greater New Orleans region, and the passage of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 which created a new recurring revenue stream for coastal projects. In 2024, the competition for federal disaster recovery dollars has grown as climate impacts have increased, and without consistent engagement and communications, Louisiana's impressive track record since the creation of CPRA may be viewed as an excuse to begin allocating resources to other states in need.

The Department of Energy and Natural Resources should enhance its representation and engagement with federal agencies, Congress, and the White House to continue sharing its successes and making the case for continued federal support and investment.

The Louisiana Legislature is also a vital supporter of the state's coastal program and coastal objectives. Not unlike Congress, legislators from non-coastal parts of the state, and newly elected members need to be engaged and educated



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about the work and benefits of the coastal program: how pro-active risk reduction investments save money and enhance the economy, how coastal funding streams are structured and how they can be spent, and what the future outlook for the coast looks like without continued strong support for a robust coastal program.

The Department of Energy and Natural Resources should continue to engage legislators across Louisiana and the parish and policy jury governments around Louisiana to promote coastal progress and gather ideas for additional solutions to increasing vulnerability.

Public Education and Support

The final constituency and foundational component of the CPRA's past decade and a half of success is public support and understanding. While many people across Louisiana have experienced coastal land loss firsthand either in their own communities or while fishing, the maps of Louisiana taught in schools still depict a coastline that has not been accurate since the 1930s. A strong and effective coastal program depends on deep knowledge and commitment by the people of Louisiana—one that appreciates the problem, its causes, and possible solutions. [Polling supported by our organizations](#) shows the Louisiana public today supports coastal restoration at amazingly high levels, but the task of educating the public and maintaining their support is one that can never relent. Master Plans, Annual Plans, and individual projects and planning efforts all go through phases of public participation and engagement. Furthermore, some of the most difficult decisions about the future of coastal Louisiana are made every day and after every hurricane by individuals, families, and business owners who need to have the benefit of the state's projections of current and future risk and the state's intentions for project implementation to inform their decisions.

It is in the best interest of the coastal program and LDENR to foster participation and maintain the public's understanding of its processes, projects, and constraints as it seeks to partner with people and communities to protect and restore the coast.

Protect Funding

Together a science-based planning process supported by wide stakeholder engagement, public input and understanding, and strong political support from every level gives confidence to produce regular annual expenditures of over \$1 billion. With so many stakeholders committed to a principled process for project selection the worst thing that could happen would be for funding secured to advance those plans to then be politicized, swept, or redirected to other causes. The Coastal Protection Trust Fund constitutionally protects coastal funding for projects that advance the Coastal Master Plan.

As LDENR advances with agency consolidation and pursues the creation of a new Natural Resources Financing Authority, it should preserve the Coastal Protection Trust Fund and all its guarantees.



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Composition of the CPRA Board

To reiterate a point made in our prior comments on the executive order, the coastal problem poses cascading and compounding impacts across every system in the state and should therefore be managed by an entity with broad representation across government. The current location of the CPRA Board within the Office of the Governor allows for the alignment and coordination of responses and adaptations to the implications of the coastal crisis across multiple state agencies in accordance with a single vision and statement of priorities expressed in the coastal master plan. For example, the Commissioner of Insurance must be included during discussions of coastal Louisiana's current and future risk so that he can adjust his agency accordingly and help communicate the successes of the coastal program to insurance companies and reinsurance companies making decisions that affect the economic resilience of our coastal communities.

Rather than being removed from the Board, state agencies should be encouraged to engage more fully in the work of the board—to recognize their connection to the coastal crisis and adapt their programs and projects accordingly.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities

The contemplated transfer of powers from the Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities to the Secretary of LDENR represents not just authority but responsibility. Expressing a clear and consistent, unified voice for Louisiana's coast both in the state and beyond is an incredibly huge and hands-on job. Past executive assistants have had to be fully engaged as they manage relationships and pursue progress with federal agencies like the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the State Legislature, and across the Governor's own cabinet. The short history of coastal work in Louisiana has shown that without consistent efforts at coordination, the efforts of one agency can quickly conflict with or even undermine those of another. The executive assistant for coastal activities exists to align those interests for the benefit of coastal progress, to defend the planning process, the research, and the decisions of the agency that make that progress possible—an outcome that also reflects well on the Governor.

As we know you appreciate, the Secretary of LDENR already has enormous responsibilities and duties to manage the opportunities and costs associated with the ongoing energy transition—one of the most significant natural resources and economic questions facing Louisiana. Taking on the additional responsibility of contending with the complexities of a coastal crisis that threatens to cost the state 5,000 square miles of its territory over a 140-year time frame is itself more than a full-time job.

The Secretary should elevate and designate a highly recognized professional to ensure that the duties of the Executive Assistant delegated to LDENR are carried out to their fullest and that the completion of those duties are supported by adequate staff to pursue new policies, defend successful portions of the program, and continue the rapid implementation of projects.



RESTORE

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA



MississippiRiverDelta.org

 /MississippiRiverDelta



@RestoreDelta

Conclusion

Efficiency is a ratio of accomplishment to effort. Any attempt by the state to improve efficiency without taking pains to achieve results is one not worth pursuing. This is especially true when it comes to the management of the state's coastal crisis with its vast human, economic and ecological consequences. Our organizations, through our work on the Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition, are dedicated to supporting the outcomes of the state's coastal program and working together for a more protected and sustainable coast for Louisiana today and in the future.

Every governor since Governor Foster has been well served by the efficiency, productivity, and results achieved by a singular and focused commitment to coastal protection and restoration. For those successes to continue, our organizations implore you to preserve what has worked and to commit to further investments in the already successful elements of the program by allocating staff and resources to the continuation of this vital aspect of Louisiana's life and prosperity.



RESTORE

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA



MississippiRiverDelta.org

 /MississippiRiverDelta



@RestoreDelta

Our recommendations in this letter are crafted with the recognition that the proposed consolidation of CPRA under DENR is more than likely a predetermined outcome. Given that, our organizations' intent is to constructively offer recommendations to shape and preserve the most important elements of the coastal program. However, we would be remiss if we did not again share our most basic thoughts: The CPRA, as the single state entity charged with the protection and restoration of Louisiana's coast, is a lean and nimble agency capable of continuing the heady job it is tasked with. Even after reviewing the original Executive Order JML 24-13 and follow-on letters referenced herein, we cannot see a solid rationale for dismantling this highly functional organization. We respectfully request the reconsideration of the direction and pace of the consolidation being considered. We stand ready to discuss these concepts further with you in the coming months for the benefit of Louisiana's coastal program.

Sincerely,

Simone Maloz
Campaign Director
Restore the Mississippi River Delta

Kristi Trail
Executive Director
Pontchartrain Conservancy

Lauren Bourg
Director, Mississippi River Delta Program
National Audubon Society

Amanda Moore
Senior Director, Gulf Program
National Wildlife Federation

Will McDow
Senior Director, Climate Resilient Coasts & Watersheds
Environmental Defense Fund



102. Good afternoon –

I am submitting National Audubon Society's comments regarding Executive Order JML-13 on behalf of Brian Moore, Vice President for Coastal Policy and Interim Executive Director for Audubon Delta.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide additional input on this important issue.

Best,

Kelly McNab

Communications Associate

Restore the Mississippi River Delta

713.705.9107

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Kelly.mcnab@audubon.org

Audubon Delta

3801 Canal Steet, Suite 400

New Orleans, LA 70119

la.audubon.org / mississippiriverdelta.org



Mississippi Flyway Office
3801 Canal Street, Suite 325
New Orleans, LA 70119

225.768.0820
www.audubon.org

March 28, 2024

Office of the Governor
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Executive Order JML 24-13: Consolidation of Natural Resources and Energy Related Executive Branch Functions, Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities

Dear Secretary Gray:

The National Audubon Society (Audubon) appreciates the additional opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed consolidation and reorganization of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources (LDENR), Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), and other offices and agencies. Audubon has worked alongside the CPRA for 17 years to contribute our technical, community outreach, communications, and policy expertise to the cause of coastal restoration.

The ecosystem of the Mississippi River Delta and coastal Louisiana sustains 100 million migratory, nesting, and wintering birds. Safeguarding and restoring this critical habitat are imperative for the well-being and survival of numerous species that call Louisiana home. As a stakeholder with real interests and concerns over the health and sustainability of our coast, we write today to express some concerns and suggestions regarding the transfer of responsibilities associated with managing the state's coastal program. We urge the state to keep coastal restoration and protection a priority, which in turn will maintain the region as a safe haven for people and birds alike.

Science has been the foundation and guiding force behind Louisiana's renowned coastal program. In order to maintain an objective approach to decision making, and to limit the inherent conflict between the needs of different stakeholders, there must be an equitable, thorough project selection process that prioritizes scientific guidance over politics and power. We urge the Department of Energy and Natural Resources to maintain a science-based approach to coastal decision-making, especially if the CPRA falls under its purview.

One of the important aspects of the CPRA's planning and decision-making process is the commitment to regularly communicating and engaging stakeholders from impacted sectors and communities. This engagement not only benefits project development successes, but also attracts new supporters and funders from national philanthropic, advocacy, and research organizations. As the Department of Energy and Natural Resources progresses, it should uphold and expand the coastal program's dedication and ability to engage stakeholders.

In recent years, competition for federal recovery funding has increased as climate impacts have increased, thus creating a situation where our state's once-expected revenues of funding may be in jeopardy. Engagement and representation with federal agencies, legislative, and executive branches must be enhanced by the LDENR to continue sharing achievements and justify the need for future support and funding.

In addition to securing federal support, there must be a focus on engaging and informing Louisiana elected officials about the operations and benefits of the coastal program. Specifically, engaging and educating Louisiana state legislators and local parish governments from non-coastal parts of the state

and new members is especially important, as these members may not fully understand why investments on the coast would be beneficial for the constituents.

CPRA has been incredibly successful in the past at garnering public support and understanding for coastal issues and solutions. Recent polling research indicates that the Louisiana public strongly supports coastal restoration as a priority for our state's government. Overall, there is widespread, bipartisan support for action to address Louisiana's urgent land loss crisis, demonstrating the importance of continuing to educate the public and maintain their support. Fostering such participation and preserving public understanding of the coastal program's processes, projects, and limitations are vital for both the coastal program and LDENR. This is essential as the Department works to collaborate with individuals and communities to protect and restore the coast.

A science-driven planning process, backed by extensive stakeholder engagement, public input, and robust political support at all levels, provides the assurance needed to sustain a consistent annual expenditure of over \$1 billion. The funding secured to advance coastal projects should not be politicized or redirected, and instead should be put toward advancing the projects designated in the Coastal Master Plan. As LDENR moves forward with agency consolidation and endeavors to establish a new Natural Resources Financing Authority, it must ensure the preservation of the constitutionally protected Coastal Protection Trust Fund.

The newly proposed transfer of powers from the Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities to the Secretary of LDENR comes with serious responsibilities that require full engagement. The current Secretary of LDENR already has enormous responsibilities and duties associated with the ongoing energy transition, consequently the additional work of the Executive Assistant may conflict with or even undermine the important work being done to address our coastal crisis. The Secretary of LDENR should work to appoint a highly qualified and recognized professional to ensure the responsibilities of the Executive Assistant are fully executed and supported adequately by staff. Our organization remains steadfast in its conviction that preserving and protecting Louisiana's coastline is vital for the enduring success of its communities, culture, economy, and ecosystems. A singular and focused commitment to coastal protection and restoration is required to maintain the successes previous administrations have achieved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian Moore".

Brian Moore
Vice President for Coastal Policy
National Audubon Society

103. Dear Secretary Gray,

I am grateful for this opportunity to comment on Governor Landry's DRIVE Initiative and the related effort to reorganize the CPRA Board. Please know that the LDAF, its Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) and its subsidiary Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), with technical assistance provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), have been providing one-on-one conservation planning services to private landowners across the state since the late 1930's (RS 3:1204(12)). Whether conservation planning on cropland, forested pinelands, on poultry and inland livestock production, interior wetlands or in coastal marsh land, the conservation planning process is unchanged; of the 9 steps of conservation planning, step 1 calls for identification of natural resource problems and opportunities; step 2 identifies the landowners' land use objectives. Thus, the process is, and must remain stakeholder driven. These conservation plans are, and have always been, developed for our landowners at their request, and at no cost to them.

When the LDNR was formed and its earliest coastal restoration and management responsibilities were set forth, the existing coastal wetland conservation plans, having been written by NRCS (then the SCS), and approved by the local SWCDs for private landowners, formed the basis for our States first coastal management plan. Some of these private landowner marsh conservation plans such as for Cameron-Creole, Mud Lake, Brady Canal, Falgout Canal and many, many others were willingly contributed for these early LDNR coastal restoration and management efforts, with NRCS and SWCD staff serving on assignment to assist LDNR with incorporation of these plans into the broader coastal project implementation perspective.

Also, proper management through conservation planning of the soil, water and related natural resources within our coastal interfaced agricultural lands yields tremendous coastal management benefits. The public value of private-land coastal marsh conservation planning and implementation is derived from the ability to enhance and maintain native ecosystem functions, productivity and resilience of the prairie/wetland and delta/wetland interface by use of agricultural conservation processes and practices such as prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, crop residue management, nutrient management, cover crops, irrigation water management and wetland wildlife habitat management and more. These conservation practices, standardized through decades of NRCS/SWCD research and ground-truthing and prescribed for specific land-use plans, soil types and other resource conditions, are often our only remaining options for biomimicry of the natural ecological processes critical to maintaining our native coastal ecology and unique coastal landforms and hydrology. For many coastal tracts, native ecosystem maintenance, hydrologic restoration, water quality, wildlife habitat and floodplain enhancements and a host of collateral benefits of these essential ag

conservation activities may only be realized through this voluntary, private landowner involvement guided by a local stakeholder-driven approach. This NRCS/LDAF/SWCD/landowner relationship, built on trust decades in the making, is also reason for the long success of the CPRA-funded Coastal Vegetative Planting Program, now in its 35th year, where 38-42 linear miles of coastal vegetation are planted coastwide each year, most on private land, at an annual cost of \$500,000. A model of government efficiency and stakeholder involvement, where coastal sites likely never to fall within a large-scale coastal restoration project can receive conservation assistance and transfer of technology directly to participating landowners. This program also provides a proving ground for emerging vegetative innovations and techniques prior to their adoption in large-scale coastal projects.

Louisiana's hard working coastal agricultural producers, with conservation planning assistance from the historic SWCD/LDAF/NRCS partnership, continue to withstand formidable and recurring challenges; the LDAF, in its unending responsibility and service to all Louisianians, and for its part in this coastal legacy, remains very committed to them and will assist the CPRA and LDENR in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Mike Strain DVM,

Commissioner

Joey Breaux

Assistant Commissioner

LA Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry

Office of Soil & Water Conservation

Exec. Director,

LA Soil & Water Conservation Commission

5825 Florida Blvd.

Baton Rouge LA 70806

225-922-1269

Joey_b@ldaf.la.gov



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

MIKE STRAIN DVM
COMMISSIONER



March 26, 2024

Tyler Gray, Secretary
LA Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources
617 N Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Secretary Gray:

Tyler

I am grateful for this opportunity to comment on Governor Landry's DRIVE Initiative and the related effort to reorganize the CPRA Board. Please know that the LDAF, its Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) and its subsidiary Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), with technical assistance provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), have been providing one-on-one conservation planning services to private landowners across the state since the late 1930's (RS 3:1204(12)).

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When the LDNR was formed and its earliest coastal restoration and management responsibilities were set forth, the existing coastal wetland conservation plans, having been written by NRCS (then the SCS), and approved by the local SWCDs for private landowners, formed the basis for our States first coastal management plan. Some of these private landowner marsh conservation plans such as for Cameron-Creole, Mud Lake, Brady Canal, Falgout Canal and many, many others were willingly contributed for these early LDNR coastal restoration and management efforts, with NRCS and SWCD staff serving on assignment to assist LDNR with incorporation of these plans into the broader coastal project implementation perspective.

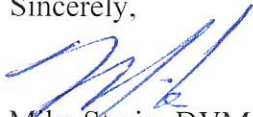
Also, proper management through conservation planning of the soil, water and related natural resources within our coastal interfaced agricultural lands yields tremendous coastal management benefits. The public value of private-land coastal marsh conservation planning and implementation is derived from the ability to enhance and maintain native ecosystem functions, productivity and resilience of the prairie/wetland and delta/wetland interface by use of agricultural conservation processes and practices such as prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, crop residue management, nutrient management, cover crops, irrigation water management and wetland wildlife habitat management and more. These conservation practices, standardized through decades of NRCS/SWCD research and ground-truthing and prescribed for specific land-use plans, soil types and other resource conditions, are often our only remaining options for biomimicry of the natural ecological processes critical to maintaining our native coastal ecology and unique coastal landforms and hydrology. For many coastal tracts, native ecosystem

maintenance, hydrologic restoration, water quality, wildlife habitat and floodplain enhancements and a host of collateral benefits of these essential ag conservation activities may only be realized through this voluntary, private landowner involvement guided by a local stakeholder-driven approach.

This NRCS/LDAF/SWCD/landowner relationship, built on trust decades in the making, is also reason for the long success of the CPRA-funded Coastal Vegetative Planting Program, now in its 35th year, where 38-42 linear miles of coastal vegetation are planted coastwide each year, most on private land, at an annual cost of \$500,000. A model of government efficiency and stakeholder involvement, where coastal sites likely never to fall within a large-scale coastal restoration project can receive conservation assistance and transfer of technology directly to participating landowners. This program also provides a proving ground for emerging vegetative innovations and techniques prior to their adoption in large-scale coastal projects.

Louisiana's hard working coastal agricultural producers, with conservation planning assistance from the historic SWCD/LDAF/NRCS partnership, continue to withstand formidable and recurring challenges; the LDAF, in its unending responsibility and service to all Louisianians, and for its part in this coastal legacy, remains very committed to them and will assist the CPRA and LDENR in any way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Strain', is written over the typed name.

Mike Strain, DVM
Commissioner

104. Good Morning,

Please find the attached comments submitted by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) in response to Executive Order JML 24-13 and external stakeholders (DRIVE Initiative). We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and look forward to working together. Please confirm receipt of these comments. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Ethan M.

Ethan J. Melancon, MPA

Advocacy Director

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

3801 Canal Street • Suite 400 • New Orleans, LA 70119

Ethan.melancon@crcl.org • (985) 859-4649 (C)

Support CRCL and together we can build a stronger coast!

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Board of Directors

March 28, 2024

Kimberly Reyher
Executive Director

Dear Secretary Gray,

Parker Kilgore
Chairman

We have received your update on the Department of Energy and Natural Resources reorganization process outlined in Executive Order JML 24-13, which includes references to the creation of a Natural Resources Steering Commission to be chaired by Mr. Gordon Dove. We appreciate the opportunity the administration has provided for us to contribute feedback as a valued community stakeholder.

Ashley Liuzza
Vice Chair

Nene Gianfala
Treasurer

We agree with the decision to form the commission and believe it should include the participation of the state's community partners. The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana is well-positioned to be considered among those stakeholders, given our role in the creation of the coastal program and our record of bringing together scientists, industry, public officials and private individuals in pursuit of our mission: to unite people in action to achieve a thriving, sustainable Louisiana coast for all.

Will Norman
Secretary

Mindy Nunez Airhart

CRCL also is a statewide organization, one that connects with communities, businesses and other organizations from one side of our coast to the other. This uniquely wide geographical footprint gives us unusual expertise in the different types of projects and issues our state is facing. And given our 36-year history of advocating for our coast, we have the historical perspective you are seeking.

Donald Brinkman

Steve Chustz

Rob Gardiner

Sarah Giles

Brendan Hughes

Devyani Kar

Heather Layrisson

Terrence Lockett

Sam Miles

Brock Piglia

John Ross

Randy Smith

Kristian Sonnier

Beau Tate

We agree with the administration that any changes that affect the state's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority must expedite the restoration of our coast, not slow it down. The effectiveness of the agency must be maintained. We urge you to make this a priority as the process advances. The CPRA is recognized as a global leader in establishing how coastal protection and restoration should be conducted, and we are not alone in considering it the most efficient entity in Louisiana government.

We appreciate the importance of undertaking the reorganization through a transparent process. Please consider including other methods of community engagement such as public meetings. We regard such gatherings as critical milestones. We recommend holding multiple public meetings in locations across coastal Louisiana, to ensure stakeholders who would like to participate are able to. We encourage the administration to use a process that allots the appropriate time needed for purposeful thought, feedback and deliberation.

Such a process for determining how a consolidation affects CPRA funding, staff and contracts, existing and future, should also be intentional. We hope to see public-facing information on the subject. This would help ensure that no unforeseen negative consequences result. We ask that you consider other possible unintended consequences as well. Collectively, as partners, we recognize that coastal restoration protects not just individuals, communities and ecosystems but also the industries that fuel our state and nation. We all have a great deal at stake in the success of the coastal program.

**3801 Canal Street, Suite 400
New Orleans, LA 70119
CRCL.org**



Board of Directors

Kimberly Reyher
Executive Director

Parker Kilgore
Chairman

Ashley Liuzza
Vice Chair

Nene Gianfala
Treasurer

Will Norman
Secretary

Mindy Nunez Airhart
Donald Brinkman
Steve Chustz
Rob Gardiner
Sarah Giles
Brendan Hughes
Devyani Kar
Heather Layrisson
Terrence Lockett
Sam Miles
Brock Piglia
John Ross
Randy Smith
Kristian Sonnier
Beau Tate

We thank you for the opportunity to provide input and are looking forward to working for the betterment of Louisiana as the reorganization advances.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Davis Reyher
Executive Director

Parker Kilgore
Board chairman

105. 3/29/24

Tyler Gray

Secretary

Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources

Dear Secretary Gray,

I am offering the following information and observations in my capacity as Coordinator of the Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group (LHWG). The LHWG functions as a forum and has met each month since 2003. We remain the only consistent, open, and transparent public outreach effort on the issue of Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia in Louisiana.

The main purpose of the LHWG is to promote and support the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan, a cooperative effort in which the State of Louisiana has participated since 1997. The Action Plan focuses on voluntary, cost-effective, and innovative activities and programs. Carrying out the Action Plan is the responsibility of the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force, which joins together 12 States along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, federal partner agencies (COE, EPA, NOAA, USDA, USGS), and land grant universities, as well as stakeholders and the private sector.

For the past several years, Louisiana has been represented on the Hypoxia Task Force by the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities. In my view, this is appropriate and desirable given the importance of the issue and the need for Louisiana's HTF member to represent all of the State's citizens and constituents, which the Governor is supposed to do.

While the HTF Members are in a decision-making role, there is also a HTF Coordinating Committee that plays a supportive role, and staffers from CPRA and DEQ have performed this function. Each State under the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan has developed a Nutrient Reduction Strategy, and in Louisiana this has been done by the Interagency Nutrient Team, also led by CPRA and DEQ staff.

For the past year (and previously), I have attempted to raise my concern that this Team has operated with a lack of transparency, and that the state's Nutrient Reduction Strategy can and should be revised and improved to make it more supportive of the Hypoxia Action Plan, as well as more accessible and helpful for Louisiana constituents. In my view, these improvements can be easily implemented with more transparency and public participation, but currently no process is in place to do so.

If I read the Executive Order correctly, the position of the Governor's Executive Assistant on Coastal Activities would continue, along with the authorities and duties specified (R.S. 49:214.3.1(A)(1) and (B)(2)(c)). While the Gulf Hypoxia issue is not named in the statute, the continued representation of Louisiana by the Executive Assistant on the HTF, as well as direct oversight of the cabinet agency personnel playing a role on the

HTF, its Coordinating Committee, and the Interagency Nutrient Team, would seem consistent with that authority and duties.

In my view, an additional step towards improvement would involve the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, specifically its Office of Soil and Water Conservation, which carries out most of the work that helps the State meet its obligations under the Hypoxia Action Plan, and does so by working in a cooperative manner with farmers, producers, and other stakeholders.

The LDAF OSWC has been relegated to a secondary role in Louisiana's activities on the Gulf Hypoxia issue, but a role of full partnership for them with GOCA would be appropriate as well as helpful in facilitating the State taking a more active role on this important issue.

I am glad to provide further information on these topics, and to participate in subsequent discussions and meetings.

Sincerely,

Doug Daigle

Coordinator

Louisiana Hypoxia Working Group

Room 1197

Energy, Coast, & Environment Building

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

504-258-7028 (cell)

lahwgroup@gmail.com

106. March 29, 2024

Mr. Tyler Gray

Secretary

Department of Energy and Natural Resources

P.O. Box 94396

Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Executive Order JML 24-13

Dear Mr. Gray,

The Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN) offers the following comments on Executive Order JML-13. The mission of LEAN is to foster communication and cooperation between individual citizens, corporate and industrial interests, and local and state government to assess and improve environmental problems in Louisiana. Executive Order JML-13 proposes sweeping changes and reorganization of state government programs that are intended to protect the health of citizens and communities, along with our air, land, and water. It does so on a rapid timeframe, and the process of assessment that would be applied to these changes is not clear.

The State of Louisiana has authority delegated to it by the federal government (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) to administer and implement provisions of the Clean Air Act, including the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAP), and the Clean Water Act (the National/Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System). EPA retains the authority to oversee and review this delegation, and to revoke it if the State fails to adhere to appropriate laws and regulations. These programs and related regulatory functions involve complex scientific (biological, chemical, and physical) systems, and their implementation requires expertise in particular areas. The Executive Order (EO) does not explain how consolidation of permitting, compliance and regulatory functions for natural resources-related programs in the Executive Branch and LDENR will facilitate their effective implementation. The numerous boards and commissions that the EO references have generally been established to address particular issues and problems that do not fall under the jurisdiction or legal authority of a particular agency, or intersect with those for more than one agency. They often involve long-standing and challenging issues, but at the same time provide a critically important venue for public participation, both on the part of communities and the private sector, as well as the state legislature. Where these bodies have not performed adequately, the public deserves a full and transparent assessment of where and why they have failed to do so.

One issue on which we have worked specifically is the problem of groundwater supply and use for East Baton Rouge and several adjacent and nearby Parishes, and specifically the use of the Southern Hills Aquifer system. The authority currently held by the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District (through Act 678) would under the EO be transferred to a new Division of Water along with other "regional groundwater agencies" in the state. This would result in a significant challenge of capacity for the new Division. It is also not clear how the public and its representatives would interact with the new Division.

The appropriate process for addressing these questions will allow for adequate time, as well as being accessible and participatory for the public. We will be happy to participate in in-person or virtual stakeholder meetings.

Sincerely,

Marylee Orr

Executive Director

Louisiana Environmental Action Network

P.O. Box 66323

Baton Rouge, LA 70896

lmriverkeeper@gmail.com

107. Please see the attached document for further comments regarding Executive Order JML-13 on behalf of Orleans Audubon Society. We appreciate the opportunity to

comment. I have included for your convenience a second attached survey document which is referenced in our comment.

Jennifer Coulson

President

Orleans Audubon Society

orleansaudubon@aol.com

<http://jjaudubon.net/>



64340 Fogg Lane
Pearl River, LA 70452-5206
OrleansAudubon@aol.com

March 29, 2024

RE: Executive Order JML-13: Consolidation of Natural Resources and Energy Executive Branch Functions, Powers, Duties, and Responsibilities

Dear Secretary Gray:

On behalf of the Orleans Audubon Society, representing 1,052 members from 11 parishes in southeast Louisiana, we write with appreciation for the opportunity to comment on the next steps for E.O. JML 24-13.

Our organization and our members and collaborators are dedicated to the conservation of Louisiana's unparalleled wildlife resources and providing access to them for our citizens. We recognize the dire threat posed to those resources by ongoing and past mistakes in the management of our coastal communities and ecosystems.

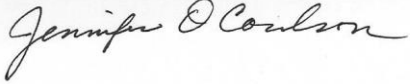
Among the many opportunities to slow the ongoing loss of our coastal resources and communities now available, none is more salient than allowing the Mississippi River to renew the process that built our coast in the first place through diversion of freshwater and sediment into our eroding and sinking delta. The completely unnecessary delay in completing the construction of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is therefore extremely concerning. We hope and pray that it is not a sign that this administration is willing to allow narrow political and economic interests to overrule decades of expert science, engineering and economic analysis (not to mention the expenditure of tens of millions of public dollars). Public support for the Coastal Master Plan process, and for Mississippi River Diversions, is overwhelming at every level, from the parishes most immediately affected in coastal southeast Louisiana including Plaquemines and St. Bernard, to the nation as a whole. (Please see attachment.)

It is in that light that we strongly urge you to safeguard the state's coastal program from political and bureaucratic interference and allow it to continue to function with maximum efficiency and speed. We fear that layering CPRA within a larger bureaucracy will inevitably lead to greater inefficiencies and opportunities for political interference, no matter your original intent and conviction.

Funds are scarce, and the competition for available dollars goes to those prepared. For too long Louisiana was at a disadvantage when compared to other coastal states. But the Master Plan process

developed by CPRA under three previous administrations, based upon sound science, expert engineering and realistic socio-economic analysis, has made Louisiana the envy of other coastal states. Quite simply, our state has been the recipient of a greater share of available fund sources. These include the criminal and civil penalties from the Deepwater Horizon disaster because we alone of Gulf states were in a position to move qualified projects more quickly to construction. We have been rewarded for our preparedness and fiscal discipline. We cannot afford to lose our edge—the future of almost a third of our state depends upon it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer O. Coulson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

President



Louisiana Statewide Coastal Restoration Survey



Methodology

Voters

Global Strategy Group conducted a phone survey of **more than 1,400 registered voters in Louisiana including an oversample in coastal parishes** between March 7 and March 14, 2023.

At least 150 interviews were conducted in each coastal region of interest. In the combined data, each region was weighted to be proportional to its share of registered voters within the state.

Margin of error

The margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 3.5% for the overall sample and +/- 3.0% for the coastal sample.

The margin of error on sub-samples is greater.



Key Findings

Key Findings

Voters statewide and on the coast recognize that coastal land loss is having a direct impact and want to see action.

More than half of voters believe that coastal land loss will have an effect on them within the next ten years. They are overwhelmingly favorable to coastal restoration efforts and lawmakers who support taking strong action to protect and restore their state's coastal areas and wetlands. Furthermore, voters across party lines agree that coastal preservation efforts are important and that the state needs a plan that keeps up with the latest science. And nearly all voters believe that even if we can't restore Louisiana's coast to its previous footprint, it is important to work to maintain as much coastal land as possible.

Voters support sediment diversion projects when given some modest education. Nearly three-quarters support “sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time” – and this jumps to 80% when we give a bit more information.

Louisianians believe sediment diversions will have positive impacts on everything from Louisiana's ability to withstand storm surges to commercial fisheries – and they would view elected officials who support diversions more favorably.

Voters report that they would look more favorably on local and state elected officials who support these projects. Voters also see sediment diversion projects as having a positive impact on the region's ability to withstand hurricane storm surge and sea level rise, jobs and the economy on the coast, fish and wildlife, the area's culture and way of life, and commercial fisheries in the long- and short-term.

Support for sediment diversions remains very robust after opposition attacks. Even in the scenario where voters hear a series of attacks against sediment diversions with no positive messaging in response, Louisiana voters continue to support diversions by an overwhelming 66% to 26% margin. And after voters hear messaging from both sides, support rises back up to 74%.



Landscape

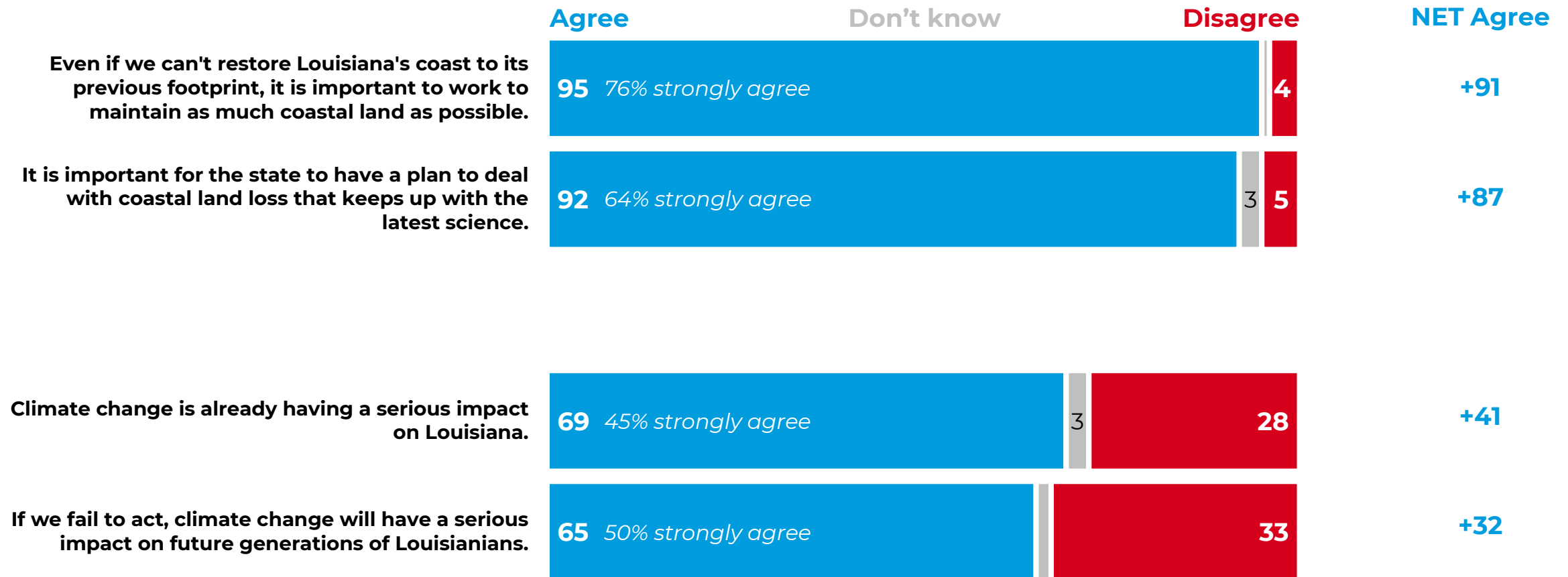
Voters like coastal restoration and lawmakers who support it

Favorability of Coastal Issues



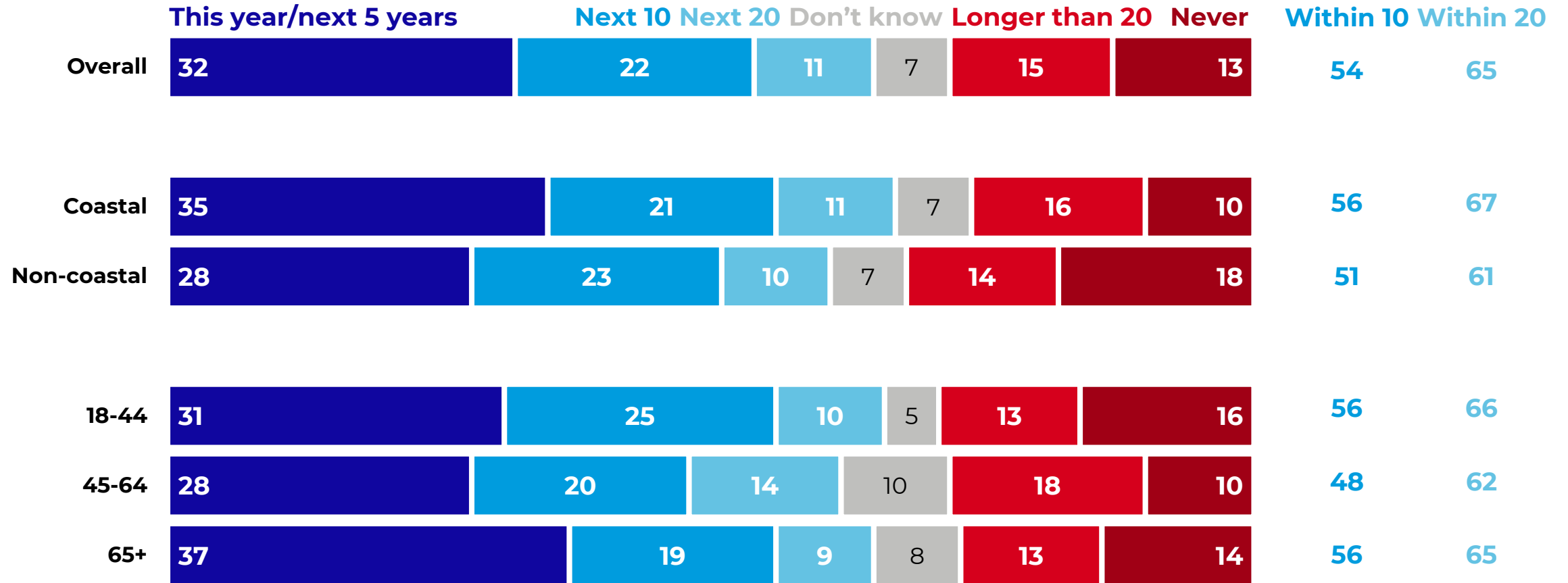
Louisianians overwhelmingly see need to address land loss, and an increasingly strong majority recognizes climate change's impact

Statements about Coastal Land Loss and Climate Change



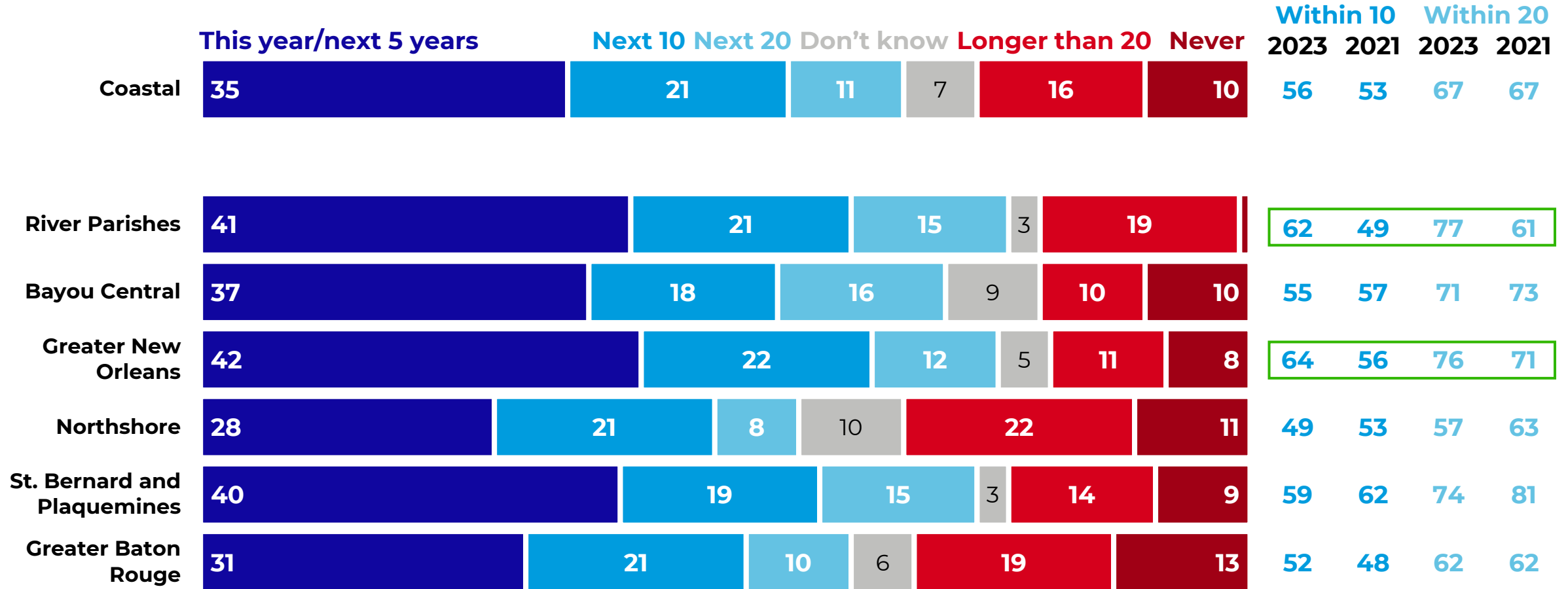
Voters see coastal land loss as an immediate threat, regardless of proximity

How soon do you think coastal land loss will directly impact you and your family?



There is growing concern on the coast, particularly in River Parishes and Greater NOLA

How soon do you think coastal land loss will directly impact you and your family?





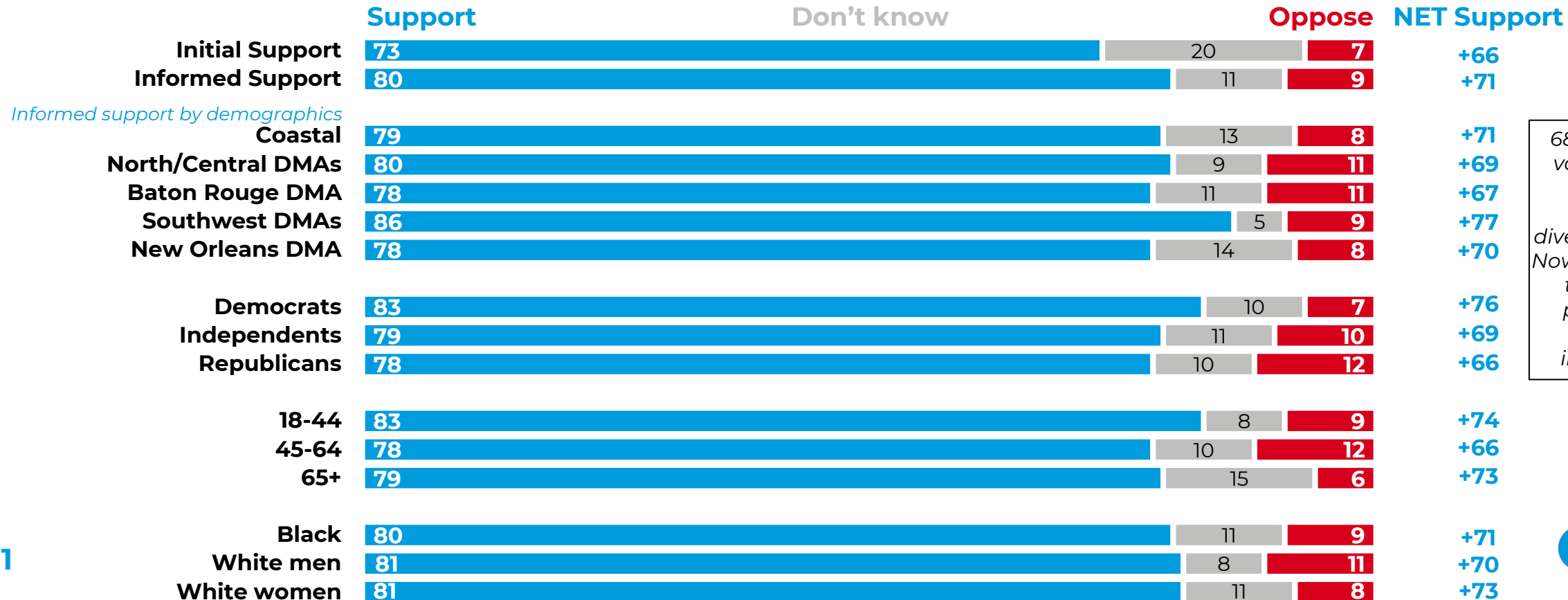
Sediment Diversions

Nearly three in four Louisiana voters support diversions on first consideration. More information boosts support

Support for Sediment Diversion Projects

INITIAL: Just based on what you know, do you support or oppose sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time?

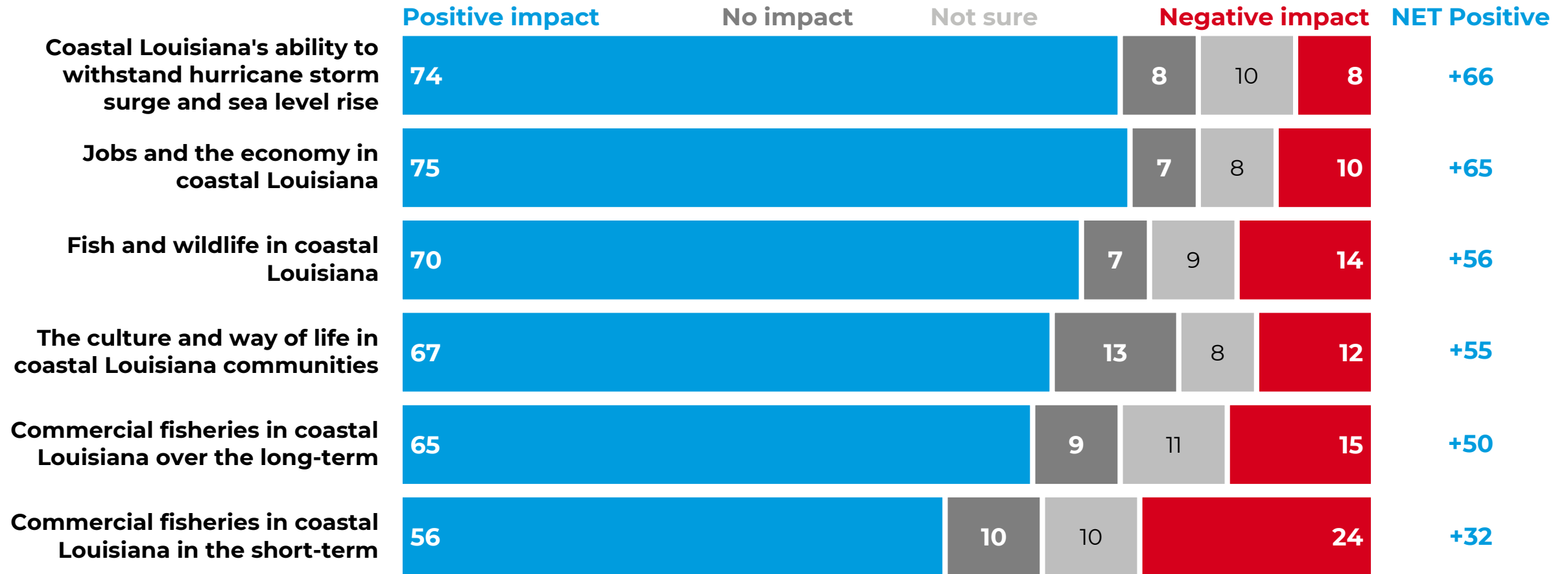
INFORMED: As you may know, sediment diversions are large-scale coastal restoration projects that build and maintain land over time by building control structures in the Mississippi River levee to divert freshwater, sediment, and nutrients from the river into nearby wetlands. Knowing this, do you support or oppose sediment diversion projects to build and maintain coastal wetlands over time?



68% of coastal voters initially supported sediment diversions in 2021. Now, **73%** support them when provided no additional information.

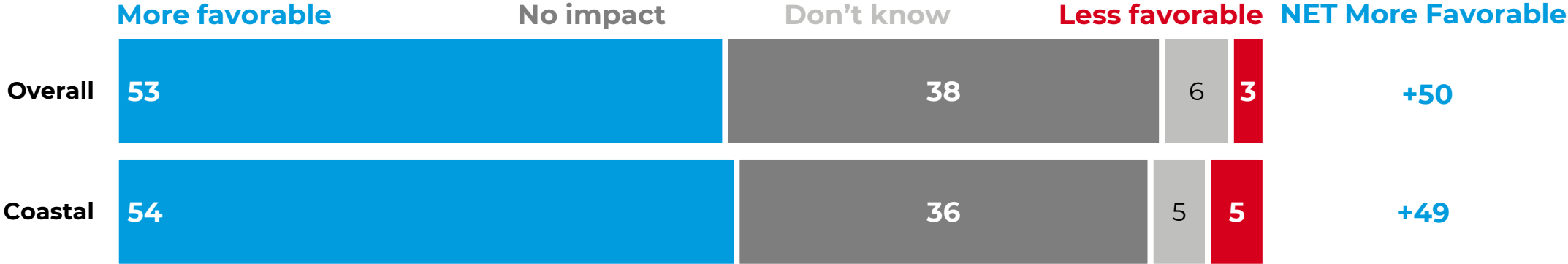
Voters believe sediment diversions will have positive impacts on all metrics tested, including the economy, fisheries and wildlife

What kind of impact do you think sediment diversion projects would have on each of the following?



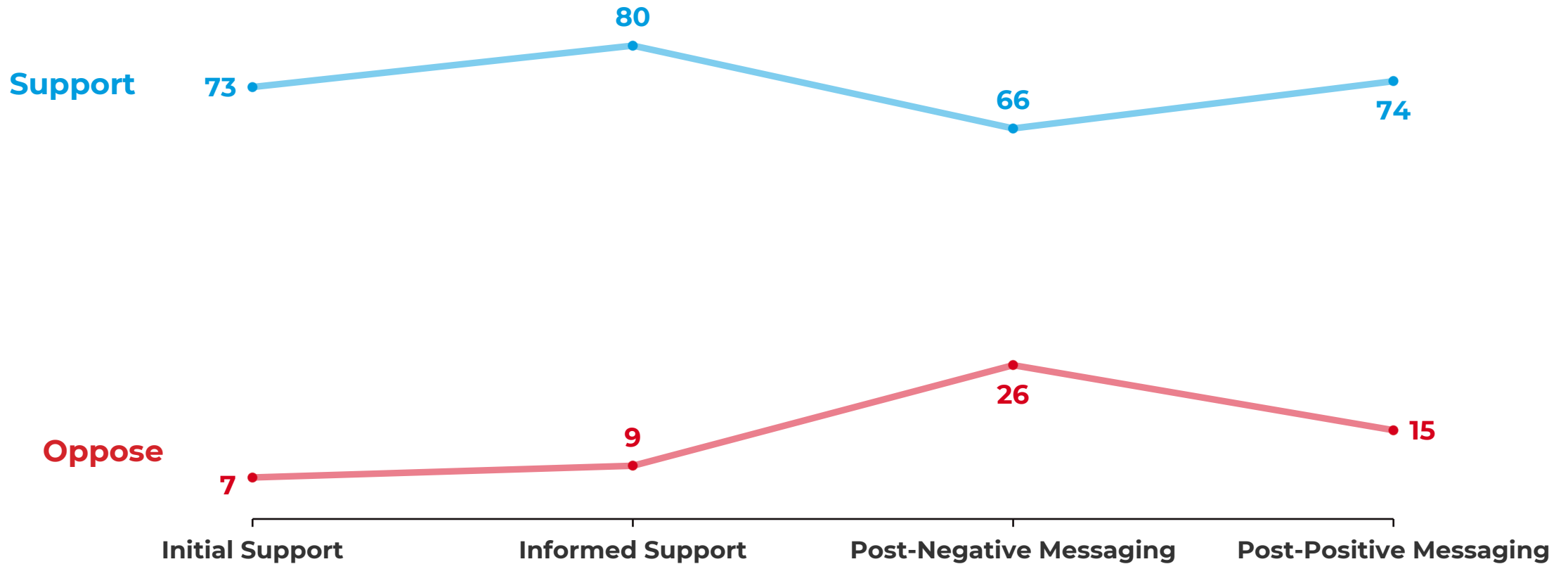
Elected officials benefit from supporting sediment diversion projects

Would you feel more or less favorably about your local/state elected officials if they supported sediment diversion projects?



Even after unopposed negative messaging, support for sediment diversions remains robust

Support Movement



Thank You

New York

Washington, DC

Hartford

Chicago

Denver

Seattle

108. Dear Governor Landry,
Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.
And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.
Please do not restructure the CPRA.
Thank you,
Aimée Hayes
504-453-6581
aimee.hayes@gmail.com

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Moving the Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority (CPRA) under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources is a dangerous move which will harm the safety of Louisiana residents.
And reducing the size of the CPRA's advisory board and board of advisors will rob the people of Louisiana of valuable advice and expertise which is currently being offered for free.
Please do not restructure the CPRA.
Sent from my iPhone
Lisa Zumpe
lisazumpe@gmail.com

110. Dear Governor Landry,
Thank you for reconsidering your plan to restructure the CPRA.
Sandy Rosenthal
Founder, Levees.org
sandy@levees.org