



Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRCL Concerned New WOTUS Proposal Undermines Progress

Baton Rouge, LA (December 13, 2018) In response to the proposed revised definition of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS), CRCL's Policy Director, Emily Vuxton, released the following statement:

"We are very concerned about the proposed changes to the definition of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS). These changes, simply put, consist of major rollbacks to the Clean Water Act which protects wetlands and waterways that provide drinking water, environmental habitat, plentiful fishing and hunting opportunities and protection from storms across Louisiana.

"We are particularly concerned about the proposal to exempt wetlands found behind levees from Clean Water Act protections. If protections for these wetlands are removed, it would mean that likely thousands of acres of wetlands in Louisiana would be open for exploitation and degradation from development. These wetlands (considered to be part of "fastlands" by the State of Louisiana) are exempt from state permitting already, and this proposed language could also exempt them from federal permitting, essentially exempting them from all protection.

"In Louisiana we are committed to one of the most ambitious environmental restoration programs in the history of the country. We also have hunting and fishing opportunities that are unparalleled. Simply put, our environment and its vast natural resources are our greatest resource. Proposing rollbacks to the Clean Water Act imperil the beautiful state that we hold home.

"We will continue to follow developments in this proposed rule and intend to file public comments."

More information about the proposed rule can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule>

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About CRCL:

CRCL is a non-partisan, non-profit organization driving bold, science-based action to restore coastal Louisiana through outreach, restoration, and advocacy. CRCL was founded in 1988 and is the state's oldest and most comprehensive coastal restoration organization. Visit crcl.org.

Our Coast, Our Future

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