



Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana

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Governor Takes steps to Right Coastal Wrong

CRCL continues fight for coastal fund protection

Baton Rouge— January 23, 2019) Today, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards pledged to return \$55 million of state surplus funds to the constitutionally-protected Coastal Trust Fund to support projects in the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan, Louisiana’s blueprint for addressing the state’s land loss crisis. In addition, the Governor announced close to \$300 million from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) dedicated to fund master plan risk-reduction projects across the coast over the next three years. Governor Edwards also solidified the leadership of the state’s Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) by appointing Chip Kline as Executive Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Activities and Chairman of the CPRA Board. Kline was serving in an interim capacity after Johnny Bradberry stepped down late last year.

In response to these announcements Kimberly Reyher, Executive Director of the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana released the following statement:

“We are gratified by the Governor’s decision to return the money swept from the Coastal Trust Fund over the past several years. Our coast, our communities, and our people deserve every cent available for implementing the state’s Coastal Master Plan. While this is a welcomed announcement, the fact is that our coast is too important for the Coastal Trust Fund to be raided when the state has a budget crisis. CRCL has been fighting to protect our coastal funds for three decades, and we will continue to do so. The Governor is a champion for our coast and this shows his continued commitment.

“It is important that Louisiana receive its share of the promised GOMESA funding. This money is long overdue, but we are finally receiving some of the benefits for helping power our nation. This money is crucial to help our coastal communities mitigate the risk that we face from rising seas and destructive storms that will continue to batter our coast.”

Our Coast, Our Future

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