



**Coalition To Restore
Coastal Louisiana**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conservation Groups Praise Cassidy for Raising Awareness of Inequities

Cassidy Proposal to keep offshore funds in the states that produce them

New Orleans, LA (October 2, 2018) On Tuesday, October 2, 2018, Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) offered and withdrew an amendment to Senate Bill 3172. Senate Bill 3172 establishes a fund to direct offshore energy revenues to deferred National Park Service maintenance needs. Senator Cassidy's amendment proposed to increase the percentage of offshore revenue funds that are directed to Gulf Coast energy-producing states under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. It is similar to language contained in the Domestic Offshore Energy Reinvestment Act of 2018 that was passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources last month. In response to Senator Cassidy's amendment, the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation released the following joint statement:

"We thank Senator Cassidy for introducing this amendment and raising the awareness of the fact that although oil and gas production in Louisiana and across the central Gulf Coast sends millions of dollars every year to the U.S. Treasury, the proposed legislation in SB3172 will direct most of these funds to national parks in states that do not make substantial contributions to these revenues. In the meantime, coastal Louisiana continues to lose land, eroding natural protections for the very infrastructure that extracts and transports the energy that powers the nation, and yet we do not benefit from the funds generated by this energy production. Not recognizing the importance of using these funds to protect coastal Louisiana and its oil and gas infrastructure is preposterous.

"Coastal Louisiana is disappearing every day, and as it does, our communities, our people, our economy and our way of life are put at risk. We have a plan to rebuild and restore our coast, but we do not have the funding needed to complete our 50-year, \$50 billion Coastal Master Plan. This amendment recognizes the need to spend this money fairly."

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.

About Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation:

LPBF is a non-partisan, non-profit organization based in New Orleans promoting *ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP THROUGH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY*. LPBF was founded in 1989 *to address water quality, coastal restoration and environmental education*. Visit saveourlake.org.

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