COASTAL RESTORATION FOR GULF RECOVERY

Cooperating Organizations

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
www.nwf.org

Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
www.crcl.org

EDF ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND
Finding the ways that work
www.edf.org

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.
www.nature.org

Audubon
www.audubon.org

DUCKS UNLIMITED
www.ducks.org

Dear Secretary Mabus:

With the ongoing Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil spill, as with other disasters that have befallen the Gulf region, billions of dollars are being allocated for short-term recovery needs, while an equally urgent long-term recovery effort–coastal restoration–waits in limbo.

We applaud the President for giving you the restoration mandate and ask you to move with the urgency our battered coast demands.

SPECIFICALLY, WE URGE YOU TO BRING TOGETHER CONGRESS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES TO:

- Accelerate OCS revenue sharing to Gulf producing states for coastal restoration.
- Immediately fund construction of already-authorized projects to reconnect the Mississippi River with its Delta wetlands and restore crucial barrier islands.
- Establish a dedicated long-term funding stream sufficient for coastal restoration.
- Ensure that a significant percentage of the penalty monies to be paid by BP is dedicated to coastal restoration as reparations for the contamination of thousands of acres of coastal marsh that cannot be cleaned up.
- Cut red tape to allow immediate distribution of existing Federal appropriations for restoration, including more than $1 billion in Coastal Impact Assistance Funds for coastal states.
- Put in place a Federal-state authority with the capacity, the will, and the resources to get the job of restoration done in time to build on existing land and prevent land loss rates that will exponentially increase without action.

As you have recognized, coastal restoration is what will make this important region whole. We can no longer just treat the symptoms–we must get to the heart of the disease. America's WETLAND is on life support and needs urgent care. Restoration is the key to real recovery. Thank you for considering these steps.

We cannot afford to lose America's WETLAND.

Americans care. They know the world is watching and that history is recording this moment of opportunity or lost promise.

America's WETLAND FOUNDATION

1.866.4WETLAND
www.americaswetland.com

LET'S NOT BE A BIG LOSER. HELP SAVE AMERICA'S WETLAND.