

COAST BUILDERS COALITION

The Honorable Harry Reid
Office of the Majority Leader
The United State Senate
The Capitol, S-221
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 19, 2008

Dear Senator Reid:

The Coast Builders Coalition, a coalition of companies performing vital coastal restoration and hurricane protection work in Louisiana, would like to urge your continued involvement in the Louisiana-specific coastal restoration and hurricane protection provisions in the House and Senate versions of the Emergency Supplemental Bill. It appears this legislation represents the best vehicle this year to provide the funding and program provisions necessary for Louisiana's coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects to proceed.

The Senate-passed version of the Emergency Supplemental Bill contains a number of important provisions absent from the House-passed version of the bill. In particular, the Senate version contains almost \$3 billion more for coastal restoration and hurricane protection work in Louisiana as well as a provision providing for a reduced cost share, that is in line with historic levels and that reduces the non-federal match requirements for the state and its local partners by approximately \$200 million.

We understand that there are significant concerns about the total cost of the Emergency Supplemental Bill and that many of its domestic spending provisions are at risk of being left out of the final version. As evidenced by Governor Jindal's decision to travel to Washington this week to advocate for Louisiana's interests in the Emergency Supplemental Bill, it is critical that key domestic spending provisions relating to Louisiana remain in the legislation. As final decisions on this legislation are made in the coming days, we urge your active advocacy for coastal restoration and hurricane protection provisions in addition to the \$5.8 billion provided for in the House-passed version of the Emergency Supplemental Bill. We also urge your advocacy for the historic cost share provisions in the Senate bill and for other provisions that would allow the state flexibility in meeting its cost share obligations. Finally, we believe any provisions giving the state greater control of coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects will lead to more expedient construction and a better overall system.

As an organization dedicated to achieving a sustainable coast for Louisiana, the Coast Builders Coalition strongly believes the next few days of negotiations on Capitol Hill will have a tremendous impact on Louisiana's ability to execute on its Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast. With over two million Louisiana residents living in the coastal zone, the effective implementation of the State's Master Plan will have a profound impact on the wellbeing of Louisiana citizens for decades to come. Thank you for your attention to and assistance regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

Scott Kirkpatrick
Executive Director
Coast Builders Coalition