

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9004
(225) 342-7015
GOV.LA.GOV

September 21, 2016

[REDACTED]

RE: Coastal Restoration Litigation

Dear [REDACTED]

As you know, the Department of Natural Resources has intervened in lawsuits filed on behalf of Plaquemines, Jefferson, Vermilion, and Cameron Parishes under La. R.S. 49:214.36(D) & (E) against certain oil and gas operators, seeking damages for restoration and remediation of coastal land caused by alleged violations of coastal use permits or, in many cases, failure to obtain coastal use permits. If successful, these cases will allow the oil and gas industry to repair any damage the courts find that the operators improperly caused, or, if the damage is irreparable, to fund integrated coastal protection projects of equal value, including coastal restoration, hurricane protection, and improving the resiliency of the coastal area. This will benefit the State, its citizens and the industry, by preserving and protecting our coastal environment for all of its uses, including habitation, hurricane protection, flood control, commercial and recreational fishing, and oil and gas production infrastructure. It is not the plaintiff Parishes' or our intent to hold the operators responsible for any damage or land loss that they did not improperly cause, and even if we wanted to do so, the courts would not allow that.

Since becoming involved in the litigation, we have been advised by counsel for the plaintiff Parishes that it is likely that similar damages exist in your Parish. As a Parish with an approved coastal management program, [REDACTED] Parish has authority under § 214.36(D) & (E) to institute an action similar to those filed by the plaintiff Parishes for any damages in your Parish.

It is our intent to fully and finally resolve these issues across the entire Coastal Zone, for the benefit of both the State and its citizens and to provide an economically sensible and efficient global resolution for the oil and gas industry. Accordingly, we encourage you to consult with your private counsel and file such a suit, in which Secretary Harris will then intervene. Should you not do so within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter, Secretary Harris will do so.

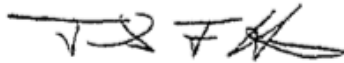
[REDACTED]
September 21, 2016

Page Two

This litigation is being managed on behalf of the State by Donald W. Price, Special Counsel to DNR. Should you or your counsel have any questions, or should you just wish to discuss these issues, please reach him at (225) 342-4274, or at Donald.Price@la.gov. His mailing address is P.O. Box 94396, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9396. He looks forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John Bel Edwards
Governor



Thomas F. Harris
Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

cc:

[REDACTED]
District Attorney of the Parish of [REDACTED]