SUPPORT S.1400 THE RESTORE ACT

Recovering and Strengthening Louisiana's Economy and Environment

Last year's Gulf oil disaster was the latest blow to Louisiana's ecosystems after years of degradation from human impacts and natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina.

Restoring Louisiana's environment will make the state more resilient, lessen potential damage from future hurricanes and flooding, and create new jobs. In short, environmental restoration ***is*** economic restoration.

The Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunity, and Revived Economies of the Gulf States Act of 2011 (the "RESTORE Act") will restore the Gulf region by investing fines paid by BP and the other parties responsible for the Gulf oil spill — **renewing the environmental and economic health of Gulf Coast resources our nation cannot afford to lose.**

Louisiana's Economy Depends on a Healthy Environment

$9.3 billion – Size of Louisiana's tourism industry.
(*Louisiana Office of Tourism*)

$4.8 billion – Sales linked to Louisiana's commercial and recreational fishing-related activity.
(*National Marine Fisheries Service*)

25 percent – Percentage of all U.S. seafood produced in Louisiana.
(*State of Louisiana*)

What the RESTORE Act Does

Under current law, BP and others responsible for last year's oil spill will pay a Clean Water Act (CWA) penalty for each barrel of oil spilled into the Gulf. **Without action from Congress, those penalties will go to unrelated federal spending, instead of repairing the area damaged by the spill. These oil spill fines belong in the Gulf, where the damage was done.**

87 percent of Louisiana voters see a connection between the Gulf Coast's environmental health and the state's economy.*

81 percent of Louisiana voters believe that it is an extremely high priority for the federal government to restore the Gulf region.

The RESTORE Act will help rebuild and strengthen Louisiana's environment and support America's economic recovery.

*Source: Lake Research Partners and Bellwether Research and Consulting, national bipartisan survey conducted in April 2011.