



Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BUSH PLEDGE TO REBUILD LEVEES “A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION”

BATON ROUGE, LA – “A step in the right direction, but still not a commitment to the full journey,” is how Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana executive director Mark Davis responded to the Bush administration’s \$1.5 billion announcement to rebuild a better and stronger levee system in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

“The President’s pledge is a good beginning for New Orleans, but it falls far short of making a truly meaningful commitment to the entire region of South Louisiana that was devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita,” Davis said. Most notably, the President’s pledge to rebuild the levees in New Orleans ignores the need for a programmatic commitment to our entire coast and expresses no sense of vision or urgency of the sort that is necessary to chart an effective course and to instill confidence in citizens and business that there is a true commitment to the survival of this region.

“What is needed now is a clear commitment to our entire coastal area that combines adequate levee protection with coastal restoration to provide citizens with a future that is not only secure, but vibrant and sustainable,” Davis said.

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BUSH LEVEE PLEDGE TO REBUILD LEVEES
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New Orleans is the most visible and populated example of the many coastal communities throughout south Louisiana that face a bleak future without a comprehensive approach to coastal protection. If we are to be truly successful in protecting this region from future catastrophes, Congress and the Administration must extend the same type of commitment to those communities that stretch across the Louisiana coastal zone.

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana is the leading citizens' organization devoted to the restoration of coastal Louisiana, America's Wetland. Visit www.crcl.org.

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