



Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

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PRESIDENT'S SPENDING PROPOSAL FOR COAST "MILES OFF"

BATON ROUGE, LA (November 1, 2005) - "Either they don't get it or they just don't care" is how Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana executive director Mark Davis responded to the Bush administration's \$250 million supplemental appropriation request for coastal restoration work in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. "Either way the result is the same. At a time when a commitment to this coast, these communities, and the economic security of this region mattered most, this Administration failed to recognize the responsibility and opportunity to act in a way that could make a positive difference."

"In normal times an appropriation of \$250 million would be something to celebrate, but these are not ordinary times. What is needed now is a clear commitment to the future sustainability of this coast, its communities and economies. To do anything less than to commit to the conservation and restoration of the wetlands, waters and barrier shorelines of the Mississippi River delta and coastal plain and the honest protection of its population centers is to accept their demise. It is that simple. The Administration's proposal is miles off from what is needed."

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"If this is indicative of the Administration's understanding of what is needed, it is not enough. If it is just intended to "do something" it is too much. We can do better than this. We must do better than this. The plans, the science and engineering exist to chart a brighter future. It is time to commit to that future and invest in that future. If we do not this we will be remembered as a very sad day in our nation's history. None of us can afford that. It is time to roll up our sleeves, get back to the table and do this right."

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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