

**CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, LOCAL, AND PRIVATE SECTOR PREPAREDNESS
AND INTEGRATION**

BY

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Introduction

Good afternoon. Although I am here to discuss the issues related to the oil spill caused by the explosion and subsequent sinking of the Deepwater Horizon, I would like us to first take a moment to remember the 11 individuals who lost their lives on the night of April 20, 2010. The loss of life is tragic. I ask the Committee to remember these individuals and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

I have been asked to provide a brief statement on several key issues related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, including:

- the impact of the BP oil spill on Louisiana and the State's efforts to respond;
- a description of the interactions between the State of Louisiana and the federal government;
- any federal or state plans activated in response to the spill and the prescribed role given to Louisiana in these plans;
- Louisiana's efforts to work with BP to protect coastal communities and to train fisherman to assist with the clean-up;
- a description of ongoing efforts to assist residents impacted by the fishing ban; and,
- a description of the needs that the State of Louisiana has as a result of the spill that have gone unmet by federal agencies.

Louisiana responds to any emergency based on the National Incident Management System and the Unified Command process. Through this process, Governor Jindal directs the involved state agencies and their responses. In this case, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator and key state agencies are involved in the response and massive clean-up efforts. Governor Jindal early on stood up the Unified Command Group to engage in understanding and responding to the potential impacts of the oil spill. He met with Parish Presidents and other leadership of affected Parishes to open a line of communication to understand their issues and assist them in

developing responses to oil impacting their Parishes and to the economic issues facing the Parishes and their citizens. He has designated the Secretaries of the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Department of National Resources as trustees under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (“OPA 90”) to represent the state in the response and cleanup. State agencies and local governments have used their expertise to develop innovative modular processes to protect the coastline which are nimble and quick to deploy.

Attached to my submittal to the committee are several sections of information that provide much more detail on the chronology of the state’s response, including maps that depict emergency declarations for affected parishes, fisheries, shrimping grounds and oyster bed closures, and other drilling rigs in the Gulf of Mexico potentially impacted by the spill.

Impacts on the State of Louisiana:

The effects of this oil spill have already caused and will continue to cause, damage to Louisiana’s environment, economy, and culture. I believe it is critical to repeat a few basic facts about this oil spill:

- BP has estimated that the Deepwater Horizon spills 5,000 barrels per day into the Gulf of Mexico. We have heard other estimates from outside sources and the U.S. Coast Guard has issued other estimates ranging up to 25,000 barrels per day. The state does not have confidence in the BP estimates and is extremely worried about the actual amount of oil currently in the Gulf. Additionally, we have not received accurate estimates on the amount of oil that is being remediated on a daily basis. Because of this failure, we are unable to determine with any confidence the amount of oil we should be prepared for.

- As of June 7th, over 100 miles of Louisiana’s coast and coastal marshes are confirmed to have been impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Shoreline Impacted to Date:

- Chandeleur Island
- Breton Island
- South Pass
- South West Pass
- Isle Deniers: Whiskey Island, Trinity Island and Raccoon Island.
- Port Fourchon
- Grand Isle/ Elmer’s Island
- Brush Island
- Pass A Loutre / Red Fish Bay
- Marsh Island
- Timbalier Islands
- Lake Raccourci

- Pilot Bayou
 - Isle Grande Terre
 - Devil's Bay
 - Lake Felicity
 - Cheniere Au Tigre
 - Pilot Bay / Johnson Bay
 - Timbalier Bay
 - Bay Ronquille
 - Casse Tete
 - Vermillion Bay area (S.W. Pass to Freshwater Bayou)
 - Bay Batiste
 - Bay Long
 - Lake Barre
- It is very important to note that the current reporting mechanisms are only tracking “linear miles” of shoreline impact and not “square miles”, or the depth of oil intrusion into Louisiana’s coastal marshes. Focusing on linear miles vastly underestimates the impact on Louisiana’s coastal eco-systems and diminishes the true damage. The impact of oil on a beach is vastly different than the effects of oil in the marshes.
 - There is reported to be widespread oil accumulation below the water surface that is not reported on NOAA’s official trajectory maps. These trajectory maps are only anticipating surface oil and we have already experienced several occasions in which the oil has appeared without surface warning and the assumption is that significant oil is traveling underwater without detection.
 - As of June 7th, more than 750,000 gallons of aerial dispersants and 225,000 gallons of sub-sea dispersants have been used—the largest amount of dispersants ever used on any oil spill. The sub-sea dispersant method had never been used before and the state has not received a clear analysis of the toxicity and environmental impact. Louisiana did not concur with the use of sub-sea dispersants. The state is greatly concerned about the long term environmental effects of the use of this amount of dispersant, especially as it may affect fisheries and other wildlife.
 - First-ever Spill of National Significance declared by Secretary of U.S. Department of Homeland Security on April 29, 2010.
 - Statewide declaration of emergency declared by the Governor on April 29, 2010.
 - 13 Parishes have issued Declarations of Emergency
 - 34 Parishes have been declared by the U.S. Small Business Administration to be eligible for disaster relief as directly-impacted parishes, or contiguous parishes.

- Offshore saltwater fisheries disaster, under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, declared by the Secretary of U.S. Department of Commerce on May 25, 2010
- Large areas of state and federal fishing and shrimping grounds are closed to commercial and recreational fishermen
- Large regions of oyster harvest areas are closed

The Louisiana Department of Economic Development, in conjunction with the Louisiana Business Emergency Operations Center (LABEOC), has conducted an on-going preliminary economic impact analysis of the oil spill and the effects upon Louisiana's economy. The analysis has identified several key areas of negative impact on our economy. These include:

- Fisheries and the indirect business that support fishing activities
- tourism and recreation
- ecological assets
- transportation and logistics
- chemical manufacturing
- oil and gas
- state "brand" issues

Interwoven into all of these issues are the environmental impact on our coastal wetlands and marshes; the potential rerouting of marine vessels that will impact the transportation and logistics industry; potential regulatory shifts in the oil and gas industry; and, finally, reduced business investments and economic growth that will impact the branding of the State of Louisiana. Much of the coastline already affected or currently threatened is part of a very fragile coastal marsh and wildlife habitat system. Damage to these commercial and environmental systems will require generations of effort to repair and recover.

Coastal Louisiana communities are driven by three primary industries that in turn drive a substantial portion of those three industries nationwide: (1) Commercial and Recreational Fishing; (2) Ports and Maritime; and (3) Energy. Each of these industries are essential to both Louisiana's coastal economy and the nation's economic output.

Fishing:

One of the most acutely affected sectors is commercial fishing. Louisiana's offshore waters supply nearly one-third of all commercial seafood harvested in the lower 48 states, with values in excess of 2.85 billion dollars annually. As the largest provider of domestic seafood in the

continental United States, protection of Louisiana's fisheries, habitats and catch are critical to our nation's economy and food supply.

The recreational saltwater fishing activity will be decimated in the upcoming year, along with all the indirect dollars normally spent on fuel, boats, bait, ice, food and beverages, etc. Even before the natural resource damage assessments have started, it is evident that this spill will disadvantage Louisiana's economy for years to come and will jeopardize Louisiana's reputation as "The Sportsman's Paradise". More importantly, it has the potential to severely damage if not destroy a culture. Fishing and other water industries are a generational way of life in Southern Louisiana. The South Louisiana culture is strongly rooted in these industries and entire communities have been established around these activities for generations. Damage to these commercial activities will displace these people never to return and their cultural contribution will be lost.

While it remains very early to even begin to calculate any reliable total damage assessments, the Louisiana Department of Economic Development recently contacted over 100 seafood processors, large wholesalers, and seafood markets. Seafood processors are beginning to consider shutting down due to a lack of seafood to process and may consider using imported shrimp and other seafood from other non-affected states to stay open. With the normal shrimping season virtually at a standstill in many offshore areas of the state due to closures, only an estimated 15 to 20 percent of shrimpers are able to actively harvest, resulting in a dramatically decreased supply of local shrimp to processors.

Due to closures directly related to the oil spill, processors are now experiencing a decrease in local product which is necessary to supply long term demands. If the inability to supply this long term demand continues, it will cause a widespread relocation of components of the supply chain that have built up over generations and will jeopardize the well-established reputation of Louisiana's seafood industry nationwide.

Ports and Maritime:

While water transportation directly constitutes about .6% of gross state product, this sector and the related port activities are essential to petroleum and coal products manufacturing, fertilizer and substantial chemical manufacturing. Oil intrusion into the Mississippi River and intercoastal waterways will have an enormous economic impact beyond the mere income derived from the transportation sector. Ports up and down the Mississippi River and across the Gulf Coast will be dramatically affected, as will the labor that supports those ports and the indirect services that support that business sector.

Energy:

Oil and gas extraction is a significant part of the Louisiana Economy and may experience adverse effects due to temporary interruptions or regulatory response related to the oil spill. The

oil and gas extraction industry contributes about 10.1% of gross state product while the support activities for mining industry contributes about 5.2% of gross state product. Those support activities only represent businesses directly involved in oil and gas extraction and not the indirect effects of oil and gas extraction on non-mining sectors of the economy. The Louisiana Department of Economic Development has estimated that upwards of 10,000 jobs could be lost if deepwater drilling is curtailed.

Additionally, petroleum and coal products manufacturing, including several major refineries, make up about 7.9% of gross state product. According to the Energy Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy, Louisiana is the country's top crude oil producer when production from its section of the federally administered OCS is included. In addition, chemical manufacturing makes up about 4.8% of gross state product.

State's interactions with the federal response:

Please refer to the detailed chronology and to the attached correspondence between the state and certain federal agencies.

In the immediate aftermath of the April 20, 2010 explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon, state and local officials, including Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries search and rescue teams and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, supported the evacuation of the survivors from the vessel forty-eight miles offshore. The survivors of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy were transported either by helicopter or marine vessel to Louisiana ports where the injured were treated in Louisiana hospitals before being evacuated further.

As the immediate evacuation period ended, the state further activated its crisis action team and the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office engaged with the U.S. Coast Guard and BP (the "responsible party") to begin normal oil spill response actions in accordance with the OPA 90 and the Louisiana Oil Spill Prevention Act of 1991. However, it is crucial to note that, under the federal law – OPA 90 – BP, as the responsible party, is legally responsible for response and removal activities.

As the magnitude of the spill grew over the first several days, it became apparent that more defensive measures to protect the coastline were necessary and that there was time to implement those measures as the oil approached from 48 miles offshore. Local governments under the leadership of Governor Jindal, seeing the approaching impact, developed more robust plans to counteract the approaching oil but were frustrated with their ability to interact and participate in the response efforts due to the response framework dictated by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. This law imposes responsibility upon the "responsible party" to conduct response and removal activities, with oversight from the U.S. Coast Guard for offshore spills. BP and the Coast Guard began rigidly executing the Area Contingency Plan. State and local governments developed plans to influence those actions of BP and the Coast Guard to address more recent analysis of the

critical areas that needed protection, but have experienced frustration in having those plans implemented

Under OPA 90, a state, whose territory is impacted by an oil spill, even if that oil spill occurs on land, only has representation to monitor the response to the incident but does not have the authority to independently conduct any response activities. This stands in marked contrast to the more commonly understood emergency response framework for non-oil spill emergencies and disasters (such as hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms and earthquakes) where state and local officials have the authority to take direct actions to protect life and property. Under OPA 90, it is the responsible party – in this case, BP – that has the authority to conduct response and clean-up activities. As the event continued into the first weeks, the Coast Guard incorporated the local governments into the response efforts both to take advantage of their in-depth knowledge of the local area, and to adopt the detailed local response plans into the overall response effort. However, that incorporation was not complete and the state and local officials remain frustrated with response activities by BP and the Coast Guard.

Regional Coordinators from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) are located in all affected Parishes to provide assistance to the response efforts. GOHSEP representatives have maintained their interaction with local officials since the early days of this event. Representatives of state agencies have been integrated into various levels of the federal response to include the Houma-Incident Command Post and Unified Area Command in Robert, LA. Additionally state employees have worked tirelessly with local officials to better coordinate resource requests and serve as an ombudsman for local government.

On April 30, 2010 Louisiana's Adjutant General, Bennett Landreneau requested the use of up to 6000 national guardsman to support this event. Louisiana National Guardsman are now actively engaged in supporting this response effort. Some 1,100 plus members of the Louisiana National guard are working with local governments and the United States Coast Guard to deploy, maintain, and replenish boom. Members of the Guard are working with local officials under the guidance of the Office of Coastal Preservation and Restoration to deploy sandbags, hesco baskets, tiger dams, and other fill materials to create strengthen land areas along the coast as a preventive strategy to protect our fragile marsh and wetlands. In already permitted areas, the National Guard dredged and created sand berms across inlets to prevent oil from entering the marshlands. Attached is a picture demonstrating the effectiveness of that process. Employees of the Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Health and Hospitals, and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries continue to monitor and assess the impact of the oil spill on Louisiana's valuable seafood harvest areas. Employees of the Department of Social Services and Louisiana Workforce Commission continue to staff mobile or field units to provide direct support to our impacted residents.

The State of Louisiana's interaction with the federal government has not been limited to the on-going oil spill response. The state has also made multiple early requests to federal agencies for

assistance to implement programs that would ordinarily be triggered in a Stafford Act major disaster declaration. These federal agencies, such as the United States Department of Agriculture, Small Business Administration, Department of Commerce, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Labor, Department of Commerce, and Department of Defense have expressed willingness to provide assistance, but have been constrained by a lack of statutory authority to implement those same programs that would be triggered under a Stafford Act major disaster declaration.

The United States Coast Guard and BP have stationed liaison officers at the State Emergency Operations Center. The United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Department of the Interior, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of the Interior and others have been actively engaged in the response to protect Louisiana's coastline.

Federal or state plans activated in response to the spill:

Please refer to the detailed chronology and to the attached maps showing parishes declarations of emergency, offshore fishing and oyster bed closures, and the federal fishing closure area surrounding the Deepwater Horizon incident location. Additionally, the Small Business Administration has declared 34 parishes as direct or contiguous parishes for disaster relief.

The area contingency plan, or "One Gulf Plan", was activated upon the occurrence of the spill. On April 29, 2010 the Deepwater Horizon incident was designated a Spill of National Significance, thus implementing the National Contingency Plan for Oil Spill Response. On that same date, the Governor of Louisiana made a statewide declaration of emergency. To date, 13 parishes have also declared local emergencies in response to the event.

The identification of BP as the Responsible Party differs from the traditional emergency management role. This non-traditional response framework presented some unique challenges during the early days of the event as local governments, accustomed to being the first line of defense in a disaster or emergency, were not incorporated into the response efforts by BP and the Coast Guard. However, over the past weeks the State of Louisiana, Coast Guard and BP have worked to refine this response framework by assigning liaison officers to the State Emergency Operations Center in Baton Rouge and to local governments directly impacted by the spill.

The Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office has been actively engaged in the response from the morning following the tragic explosion. Although the Area Contingency Plan for the Gulf of Mexico provided a baseline response structure and identified critical areas of containment and protection within coastal Louisiana, the many days over which this incident developed allowed Parish and State officials to refine the area contingency plan into a more comprehensive and robust response plan. Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority worked, and continues to work, with local governments to develop second and third tier coastal protection response plans to preserve this critical part of our state. The response plans require timely

implementation (for example, the Army Corps permitting of barrier islands), however, implementation has been frustrated by unresponsive regulatory processes. It cannot be overemphasized that the coastal wetlands and marshes of Louisiana are not only an environmental concern, but a significant economic driver for the state of Louisiana and the nation.

State's efforts to work with BP:

Early on in this event Governor Jindal and the Louisiana's Unified Command Group were assured by British Petroleum that the likelihood of oil hitting the Louisiana coast was minimal. Governor Jindal and local government officials recognized the potential threat posed to Louisiana's wetlands. Throughout the past weeks we have witnessed the failure of BP to properly contain the oil source. BP's exploration plan for this project, filed and approved by MMS, indicated only a 21% likelihood of oil ever contacting the nearest Louisiana coastline for a spill of 162,000 barrels per day for thirty days. The reality is that oil was impacting the Louisiana coastline within two weeks.

As this incident evolved from a tragic accident 48 miles off Louisiana's shores into a spill of national significance, the state has encountered multiple challenges in working with BP to address issues not ordinarily present in smaller or less-complex oil spills.

BP has implemented the following:

- Implement a "Vessels of Opportunity Program" which has registered approximately 1500 local vessels to assist with the response.
- Implement unique protective strategies and countermeasures developed by state and local officials to protect the state's wetlands.
- Facilitate BP's funding of the more comprehensive and robust coastal protection response plans developed by the state and local governments.

The state's challenges in working with BP on this incident fall into two broad categories: an understandable lack of knowledge and experience in broad-scale emergency response systems; and, an unacceptable approach of conditioning current payments to State and local officials upon terms contrary to their strict liability under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Examples of both categories are:

- BP has inexperience in large-scale planning for emergency activities normally undertaken by governmental entities.
- While BP has retained a very large workforce of contractors to conduct onshore response and removal efforts, the vast majority of those contractors appear to be brought in from out of

state, leaving local workers unemployed by the incident and not employed by BP to respond to the incident.

- BP has maintained a lack of transparency in the processing of individual and business claims for economic losses caused by the incident as well as the detailed results of that process, despite repeated requests by state cabinet secretaries for information.
- BP has very recently declined the state's request for the entire database of individual and business claims resulting from this incident.
- BP seeks to limit its future legal and financial liability by attempting to insert unacceptable conditions to its publicized offers of financial assistance to the state and local governments, such as attempting to force local governments to first be "denied" reimbursement from the state for response efforts before presenting that claim to BP.
- BP exhibits a growing intractability to perform response activities they deem too costly, such as paying for offshore sand berms with proven efficacy, that are contained in the Area Contingency Plan, even when ordered by the President.
- State and local officials have developed unique protective strategies to layer the protection of wetlands and marshes. Understanding that these strategies may be considered aggressive and proactive, the state deems them necessary to prevent what would be catastrophic damage to the marshes and wetlands. The state has at times been frustrated by the inertia demonstrated by BP in approving strategies and providing necessary resources to ensure we have done all that is possible to prevent oil from impacting our coast.

Unmet needs of the state by the federal government:

Please refer to the detailed chronology and to the attached correspondence from the state, requesting disaster relief assistance from certain federal agencies.

The two primary categories of unmet needs of the state are: traditional Stafford Act disaster relief programs not available under the Oil Pollution Act; and, a heightened array of emergency response needs which will become essential if a weather event collides with the ongoing oil spill.

Governor Jindal has made several requests to the federal government for assistance and, while the responses have expressed support, the over-riding message has been that the Oil Pollution Act simply does not authorize the federal government to respond to an oil spill with disaster programs and assistance as does the Stafford Act. The requests include:

- April 29, 2010 letter to Secretary Gates requesting Title 32 funding for up to 6,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to be activated in support of the Deepwater Horizon response;
- This request was approved on April 30, 2010.

- April 29, 2010 letter to Secretary Napolitano advising of the request to Secretary Gates and requesting her support to fund the Title 32 duty;
- This request was approved on April 30, 2010.
- April 29, 2010 letter to Secretary Locke requesting a federal fisheries disaster declaration pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act;
- This declaration was made on May 25, 2010 and the state is awaiting funding details.
- April 29, 2010 letter to Administrator Mills, requesting a federal Small Business Administration disaster declaration for affected parishes;
- This request was approved on May 5, 2010, and additional parishes added on May 10, 2010.
- May 1, 2010 letter to Secretary Solis, requesting federal Department of Labor disaster assistance to affected residents;
- Secretary Solis responded on May 3, 2010 that her agency was working closely with EPA and the Coast Guard, as well as with Secretary Curt Eysink of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, but was unable to activate disaster programs normally available under the Stafford Act;
- May 1, 2010 letter to Secretary Vilsack, requesting federal Department of Agriculture disaster assistance to affected residents;
- Secretary Vilsack responded on May 3, 2010 with a suggestion for increased utilization of the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), but was unable under the Oil Pollution Act to approve the Disaster-SNAP (D-SNAP) program.

To date, BP has been unable to contain the spill or prevent it from contaminating Louisiana's waters, shores and coastal marshes. With the official beginning of "hurricane season" this month, it has become increasingly clear that, should a storm threaten to collide with the huge swath of oil that continues to contaminate the waters and coastal marshes of our state, there will be unexpected and exacerbated consequences in all phases of the event: pre-impact, response, and recovery.

The state anticipates that the following urgent issues will manifest themselves and adversely impact the state's ability to prepare for, and respond to, this potentially toxic confluence of a hurricane and spill of national significance.

Specifically, resolution of the following issues:

1. FEMA to pre-approve 100% of the cost of all debris removal, including any ordinarily "ineligible" debris removal activities from locations contaminated, or even "potentially" contaminated, with oil.

2. FEMA to provide the state with its plan to decontaminate entire areas of coastal regions that may become contaminated with oil from this spill caused by driving winds or storm surges.
3. FEMA to re-initiate its contract with Amtrak to provide a means of evacuation for at-risk populations from the New Orleans metropolitan area. FEMA informed the state, literally mere weeks ago, that it had determined to cancel this contract. In light of the current oil spill, it is glaringly apparent that all modes of evacuation will be needed should a storm threaten the coast.
4. USCG and BP to coordinate their emergency operations plans with the State of Louisiana and parishes so that the state can integrate the large additional volume and complexity of the extra thousands of personnel and large amounts of equipment into the overall state emergency operations plan and those of the parishes.
5. FEMA to approve the state's request to use federal Hazard Mitigation grant funding to construct all-hazards, multi-purpose sheltering facilities in proximity to near-coastal areas of the state. Evacuation resources, already strained by current tropical storm scenarios, would clearly benefit from having in-state sheltering facilities available.

Conclusion:

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak about the actions taken by the State of Louisiana to protect our coast and our people from harmful effects of this oil spill. The State of Louisiana has been actively engaged in this response from moments following the explosion. Initial efforts included supporting victim recovery efforts; search and rescue efforts; and initial environmental assessments. Ongoing efforts include development of innovative protective activities such as the building of sand barriers to prevent oil from entering marshes and wetlands. To this date, more than 2,000 public employees – including 1,100 members of the Louisiana National Guard -- are still supporting this oil spill. State employees are either in a direct role of protection and mitigation or in a support role to residents who have been unemployed or displaced as a result of this event.

As mentioned throughout this testimony, this oil spill not only threatens the coastal environment and fisheries of coastal Louisiana, but it threatens the livelihoods of Louisiana residents. A significant number of Louisiana citizens depend on Louisiana's fisheries industry and the offshore oil industry. Closure of commercial and recreational fishing areas has significantly impacted our residents and their families. Additionally, businesses that supply all of the ancillary products and services to the recreational and charter fishing markets have also been impacted by closures. Regulatory restrictions on offshore oil exploration will also have a devastating impact to the Louisiana economy.

Although the State of Louisiana continues to respond to the challenges posed by this oil spill, as I speak to you today the 2010 Atlantic Hurricane Season is upon us. Our worst case scenario, as we enter what is predicted to be a very active hurricane season, is the failure to contain this

ongoing oil spill as any type of tropical system hits the Gulf Coast states. In routine hurricane seasons we fear the stronger hurricanes. However, the smallest of tropical depressions may pose an ecological nightmare as strong winds and tidal surges move oil far inland to contaminate property and complicate recovery.

Few jurisdictions in our Nation have experienced the levels of disaster brought upon our State in the last five years. Louisiana continues to recover from the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, the largest disaster in U.S. history, and Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in the 2008 Hurricane Seasons, while responding to the current threat of the oil spill and planning for the potential threats posed by the upcoming Hurricane Season.

Governor Jindal takes very serious the fact that the coastlines, the marshes, the citizens that are affected by this event belong to Louisiana. We will not entirely entrust the care of Louisiana and its citizens to a third party. The state and local governments will continue to be forward leaning and aggressive to protect the interest of the state and its citizens.