

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2010

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LANDRIEU WELCOMES WHITE HOUSE GROUP'S NEW MODEL FOR COASTAL LOUISIANA

*Senator to lead effort to reform, expedite coastal
restoration and protection projects*

WASHINGTON – United States Senator Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., today announced her support for the Gulf Coast Interagency Working Group's initial report on coastal restoration, protection and sustainability. The group released its roadmap for refocusing the federal agencies work in coastal Louisiana to move with greater urgency and efficiency. Sen. Landrieu said:

“For the first time, a President has put together a cabinet level group to take stock of the crisis in coastal Louisiana and outline a roadmap to meeting these challenges now. The first recommendation of this group is that we establish a new model for implementing and executing this important work. I could not agree more. We cannot be hamstrung by the bureaucracy of the Corps or the red tape of any other federal agency. We need an integrated, comprehensive approach that accelerates our work in coastal Louisiana and builds a true partnership with the State.

“We need our federal government to lead or get out of the way, and I believe this group understands that. I hope they also see the urgent need to move forward now on coastal restoration and protection.

“The path to long-term success will depend on accelerating implementation of projects, establishing a stronger federal-state partnership and eliminating costly delays. Our work must also ensure that we balance the diverse activities that occur along coastal Louisiana, including hurricane protection, wetland restoration, navigation, agriculture, commercial and recreational fisheries, cultural and historic preservation, and future land use planning.

“I am committed to continuing to work with President Obama, this White House coastal working group and Louisiana stakeholders to put these long overdue recommendations into action. The future of our working coast, the safety of our people and the economic vitality of the Gulf Coast is at stake.”