



Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana

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Candidates for US Senate Lay Out Diverse Plans for the Coast at CRCL's Coastal Issues Forum

Five US Senate Candidates Answer Tough Questions on Coastal Restoration and Protection

(Baton Rouge, LA –October 7, 2016) In a first-of-its-kind forum, five top candidates for Louisiana's open senate seat gather at LSU to lay out their plans for making the restoration and protection of Coastal Louisiana a national priority. The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana Coastal Issues Forum highlighted the fact that Louisiana is facing a land loss crisis that will require bold, science-based action by our next senator.

"We often think of our land loss crisis as one that only affects Louisiana, but in reality it's a problem that has far reaching ramifications. Tonight we asked some tough questions of our US Senate candidate and I think it's clear that they understand the importance of taking bold actions to save our coast," said Kimberly Davis Reyher, CRCL's Executive Director. "To succeed, it will take unprecedented leadership, coordination, and political resolve."

All five candidates—Congressman Charles Boustany, Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell, Caroline Fayard, Congressman John Fleming and Colonel Rob Maness—agreed that harnessing the power of the river to build land through sediment diversions is key to restoring our coast. They also agreed that streamlining the bureaucratic process is imperative if Louisiana is to meet the target date of 2020 to break ground on the Mid-Barataria Diversion, as set out by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

The candidates also tackled major coastal questions, which included how to secure funding for critical restoration projects, how climate change should be addressed to help alleviate Louisiana's coastal land loss, how to keep the National Flood Insurance Program viable and whether oil and gas companies and other industries should be singled out for their role in this crisis.

The Coastal Issues Forum was streamed online at crcl.org. The Forum has been archived and can now be watched in its entirety at crcl.org. It will also be re-broadcast in its entirety on Cox4 in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, New Orleans; Eatel 4 in Ascension and Livingston Parishes; Suddenlink Communications Channel 8 in Lake Charles, Iowa and Sulphur; Cameron Cable Channel 8 in Cameron Parish; Vision Communications Channel 5 in Matthews-Grand Isle and on KWBj-TV in Morgan City. Dates and times can be found at crcl.org. The Forum will also air in an abbreviated format on several public radio stations throughout the state on Oct. 11, at 7:00 pm.

Below are a few quotes from CRCL's Coastal Issues Forum. These are just a sample of what was discussed at the Forum. The full video can be found at crcl.org. Please find a copy of the question attached.

PULL QUOTES:

Caroline Fayard—Question #1 Securing more funding--"It's going to require somebody who can build coalitions and educate their fellow senators on how important our coast is to our national security."

Our Coast, Our Future

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Congressman John Fleming—Question #2 Streamlining Red Tape—“There was an amendment on the WRDA bill, that I supported, voted for, that would streamline the red tape. It actually would turn much of that over state officials where permitting is much faster and approvals are much faster than they are at the federal level.”

Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell—Question #2 Streamlining Red Tape--“I don’t mind asking the Corps of Engineers the tough questions to keep them on point.”

Congressman Charles Boustany—Question #5 Oil and Gas litigation--“Let me be very, very clear, we are not going to litigate our coast back into existence.”

Public Service commissioner Foster Campbell—Question #6 Climate Change--“You know why they don’t want to tell it was manmade? Because big companies make a lot of it and they don’t want to point the finger at the big companies.”

Col. Rob Maness—Question #7 Hard Choices--“Our vision, Louisiana Leading America, will never allow your citizens to be abused, not made whole, and cultures erased for any reason.”

About CRCL:

CRCL is a non-partisan, non-profit organization driving bold, science-based action to restore Coastal Louisiana through outreach, restoration and advocacy. CRCL was founded in 1988 and is the state’s oldest and most comprehensive coastal restoration organization.

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