

**What Regional Business Leaders Are Saying About the Report:
“Regional Impacts of Coastal Land Loss and Louisiana’s Opportunity for Growth”**
edf.org/LSU-report

“Most people don’t associate coastal land loss with the Baton Rouge Region, but this report shows that the economic disruptions could be severe. Over the past few years, Baton Rouge has established itself as a globally-recognized destination for companies and countries seeking to solve complex coastal, deltaic and other water challenges, thanks to our being home to Louisiana’s Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Louisiana State University, The Water Institute of the Gulf and The Water Campus.”

- **Kyle Zeringue, Senior Vice President, [Baton Rouge Area Chamber](#)**

“Cameron Parish is on the front line of coastal land loss in Louisiana; however, those communities who sit farther inland are not immune to the effects of our eroding coastline. Our state cannot afford to lose any more of our precious coast. Residents, businesses and major industries must educate themselves and commit to taking bold steps together to protect, preserve, restore and save our coast.” - **Clair Hebert Marceaux, Port Director, [Cameron Parish Port, Harbor & Terminal District](#)**

“Restoring and protecting our coast is vital to the protection of the industries that support our economy. We depend on oil and gas, LNG, petrochemicals, fisheries, and ports, which by necessity are located on the coast. If the coast washes away, the facilities and communities that support that economy will be washed away. You cannot have one without the other.” - **Mike Dever, President, [Chenier Plain Coastal Restoration & Protection Authority](#)**

“At Port Fourchon, we understand the importance of having natural protective buffers for our communities and critical infrastructure. This report helps to quantify what we’ve been saying all along about the importance of coastal restoration as a vital component of economic and community resiliency as evidenced by the fact that the Houma region has the second-highest potential economic losses due to storms, despite being the smallest market studied.” - **Chett Chiasson, Executive Director, [Greater Lafourche Port Commission](#)**

“While the economic risks our coastal land loss pose to the Greater New Orleans region are undoubtedly the existential threat of our generation, the jobs created through restoring our coast provide significant economic returns for our parishes and communities. However, these jobs represent more than just paychecks: they illustrate an unprecedented opportunity for the workforce, businesses, and universities of Southeast Louisiana to emerge as a hub of water management expertise, and export our lessons learned nationally and internationally.” - **Michael Hecht, President and CEO, [Greater New Orleans, Inc.](#)**

“This is valuable research that helps us all better appreciate the importance of Louisiana’s land loss challenges as well as the opportunity to work together to solve them.” - **Jason El Koubi, President and CEO, [One Acadiana](#)**

“Without coastal restoration, Houma and New Orleans are the two regions that would be hardest hit in terms of both infrastructure damage and economic disruption. People and industries of south Louisiana support the state’s Coastal Master Plan because it’s our best hope for maintaining and growing our economy in the future.” - **Vic Lafont, President and CEO, [South Louisiana Economic Council](#)**

“The people of Southwest Louisiana and its economy are dependent on the coast and its resources. Whether industry with our ports, fishing economy, tourism and recreational fishing, the region is tied to the coast. With land loss and erosion our economy and lifestyle are threatened. It is vital that coastal restoration and protection be a top priority; otherwise, all that we have will be taken away acre by acre.” - **George Swift, President and CEO, [Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance](#)**