

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

To the Presidential Candidates:

Since the 1800's, New Orleans has been a birthplace for culture and talent unique from the rest of the world. The immeasurable impact that New Orleans and Louisiana music has had on the people of our nation over the years is just one of the elements which makes the city and region such a treasured part of the United States. Despite the invaluable contributions New Orleans has made to the music and culture of the nation, the city continues to struggle to recover.

In the almost three years since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the subsequent failure of the federal levee system ravaged New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, new efforts have been initiated to help restore the health of the Gulf of Mexico and protect coastal Louisiana from future devastation. To succeed, these efforts will require years of work and continued federal leadership. We are asking that the future President of the United States direct the resources and attention necessary to restore coastal Louisiana and secure the future of Louisiana's communities.

In order for New Orleans and the region to be assured a sustainable recovery it is imperative that steps are taken to restore Louisiana's coastal wetlands. Due to the nation's need for energy and dependable shipping lanes, we are losing a football field's worth of wetlands every 45 minutes to erosion. This unrivaled land-loss threatens the nation's fishing, our energy, our ports, and most importantly, leaves New Orleans increasingly vulnerable to storms such as Katrina.

Thankfully, solutions exist to utilize the land-building power of the Mississippi River to stem the tide and rebuild our critical coastal lines of defense. Through stronger, better levees and wide-scale coastal restoration, our communities can be protected.

Google/YouTube and New Orleans universities are sponsoring a Presidential forum on September 18th which would be the ideal place to spotlight this devastating yet largely unacknowledged crisis. We write to ask you to commit to attend and share your vision for leading the Gulf Coast's recovery.

The health of the Gulf of Mexico and the surrounding states are vital to our nation's energy, economy, and culture. Unfortunately, the future of the Gulf Coast will be in jeopardy until serious action has been taken to secure healthy water and wetlands. The time to act is now. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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Theresa Andersson

Marcia Ball

Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes

Benjy Davis Project

Tab Benoit

Big Blue Marble

John Blanchar
Mid City Rock & Bowl

Joseph Pierre "Big Chief Monk"
Boudreaux

The Brotherhood of Groove

Marc Broussard

Jackson Browne

Randy Chortkoff
CEO
Delta Groove/Eclecto Groove Music

Country Fried

Cowboy Mouth

Susan Cowsill

Chris Cuevas
Spire Artists Management

Dash Rip Rock

Dr. John

Robert Fitzpatrick
President

Delta Groove/Eclecto Groove Music
Formerly representative for The Beatles, The
Rolling Stones, The Who and other artists

David Freedman
General Manager
WWOZ

The Funky Meters

Galactic

Hands of Nero

Honey Island Swamp Band

Charlie Hunter

Indigo Girls

Kirk Joseph

Vanessa Joseph

Craig Klein

David Leonard and Roselyn Lionheart

Liquidrone

Eric Lindell

John Lisi and Delta FUNK

Louisiana LaRoux

Jason Marsalis

Kaya Martinez

Mike Martinovich
Flatiron Management

Irvin Mayfield

Mayes2	Jan Ramsey Publisher OffBeat Magazine
Delbert McClinton	
Alex McMurray	Rehage Entertainment Producers of Voodoo Experience and 2008 Essence Festival
Stanton Moore	
My Morning Jacket	REM
The Neville Brothers	Trent Reznor Nine Inch Nails
Aaron Neville	Dax Riggs
Charles Neville	Boots Riley
Cyril Neville	Kermit Ruffins
Gayneille Neville	Mark Samuels President Basin Street Records
New Orleans Bingo Show	Paul Sanchez
Georgianne Nienaber CANEWOMAN, LLC	"Jumpin" Johnny Sansone
Ok Go	Amanda Shaw
Anders Osborne	Harry Shearer Courgette Records
Judith Owen	
Pearl Jam	Soul Rebels Brass Band
Margie Perez	Hugh Southard President Blue Mountain Artists
Joe Willie "Pinetop" Perkins 2008 Grammy Winner	
George Porter, Jr.	Sons of William
Preservation Hall Jazz Band	Nick Spitzer Producer American Routes
The Radiators	

Hubert Sumlin
Guitarist, Howlin Wolf
Blues Hall of Fame

Superfly Productions
Producers of Bonaroo, Vegoose and San
Francisco's Outside Lands music festivals

The Tangers

Sonia Tetlow

Waylon Thibodeaux

Tom Thompson
RubyArts Entertainment

Allen Toussaint
Robert Woods
Telarc Records

Elliot Gross
Programmer and DJ
WPFW 89.3FM - Pacifica Radio

Tony Vegas

Johnny Vidacovich
Rosalie "Lady Tambourine"
Washington

Dr. Michael White

"Big Sam" Williams

Rueben Williams
Thunderbird Management Group

Marva Wright

Buckwheat Zydeco