

# Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

RECEIVED Date/TIME Stamp:  
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE  
PUBLIC RECORDS

2018 APR -9 PM 12:58

**Post-Travel Filing Instructions:** Complete this form within 30 days of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building.**

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

- ☒ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**
- ☒ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Restore or Retreat, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (state govt) and Greater Lafourche Port Commission (local govt)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all):

Travel date(s): March 27-28, 2018

Name of accompanying family member (if any): N/A

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING DID NOT INCREASE DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

## Expenses for Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate	\$534.46	\$139.90	\$101.57	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

## Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. See Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.):

See attached itinerary

4/6/18

(Date)

Bret Sparks

(Printed name of traveler)

[Signature]

(Signature of traveler)

## TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

4/9/18

(Date)

[Signature]

(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

## EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Date/Time Stamp:

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**Pre-Travel Filing Instructions:** Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics** in **SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved. This form **must** be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at [ethics.senate.gov](http://ethics.senate.gov). Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

Name of Traveler: Bret Sparks

Employing Office/Committee: Senator Roger Wicker (via NOAA SeaGrant Fellowship)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): Restore or Retreat (in partnership with two state government entities)

Travel date(s): March 27-28, 2018

*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.*

Destination(s): New Orleans, LA and Galliano, LA

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

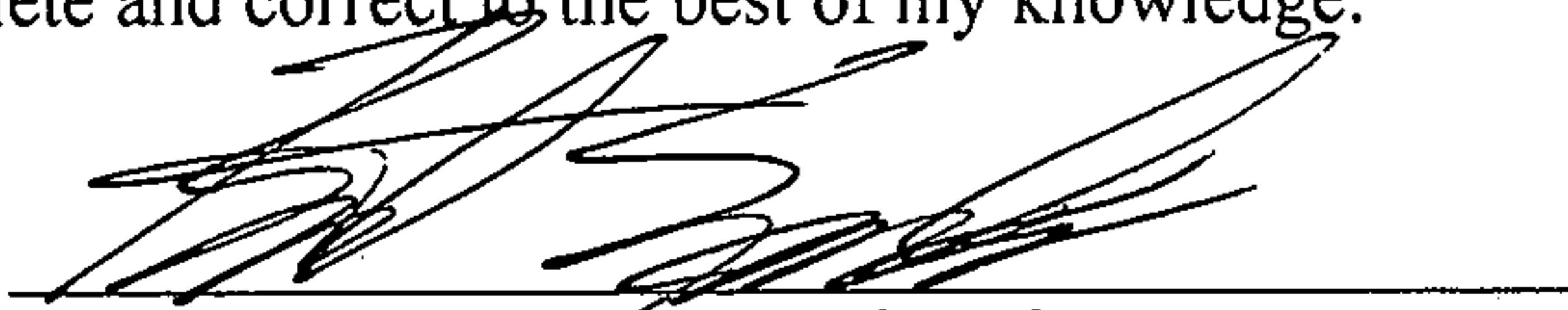
As a NOAA SeaGrant Fellow, a portion of my work requires ongoing professional development activities aimed at learning more about federal efforts to improve coastal communities and ocean resources. This trip is an educational opportunity focused on detailing Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan and the ongoing restoration efforts aimed at preserving their coastal and marsh ecosystems.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): N/A

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:

2.26.18  
(Date)

  
(Signature of Employee)

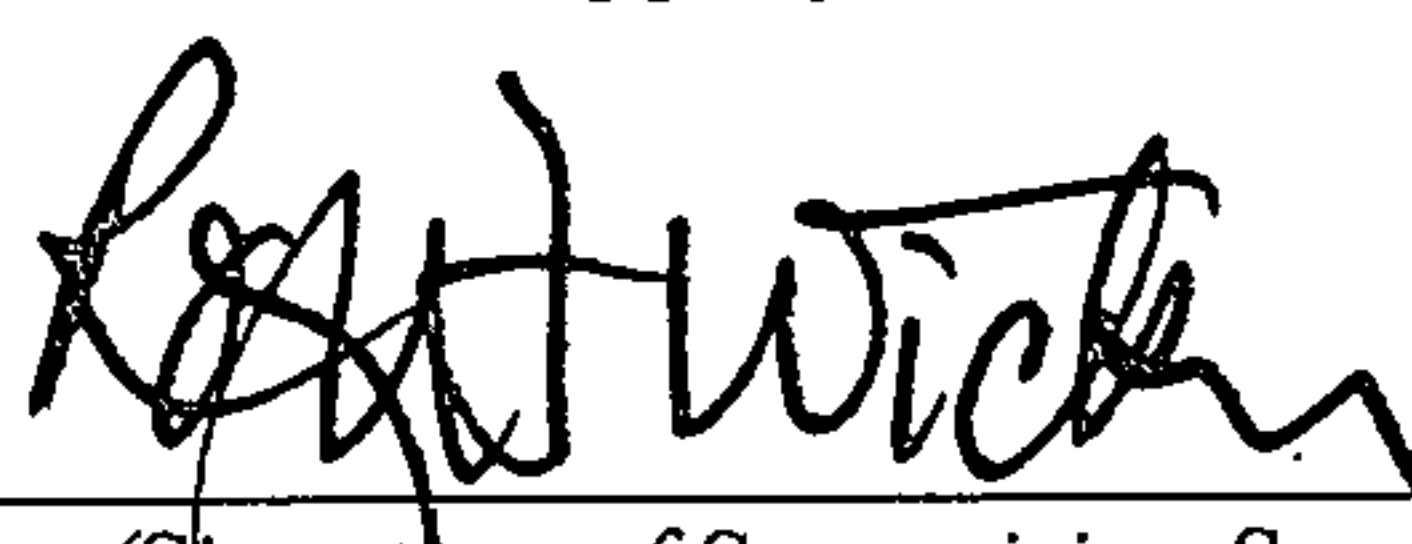
TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, Senator Roger Wicker hereby authorize Bret Sparks  
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. (signify "yes" by checking box) ☐

2.26.18  
(Date)

  
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)



## PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should NOT submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): Restore or Retreat (in partnership with two state government entities)
2. Description of the trip: To educate Congressional offices on Louisiana's delicate ecosystem, ongoing restoration efforts (some federally authorized) & future opportunities including working across state lines
3. Dates of travel: March 27-28, 2018
4. Place of travel: New Orleans, LA and Galliano, LA
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: See attachment 1
6. I certify that the trip fits one of the following categories:  
☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.  
-OR-  
☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
7. ☒ I certify that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.  
-AND-  
☒ I certify that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
8. I certify that:  
☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.  
-AND-  
☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

—OR—

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (*see questions 6 and 10*).

—OR—

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

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11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

Restore or Retreat in financing the trip and will coordinate logistics, execute the itinerary and prepare materials. The state government and local port are organizing events in their locations.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

See attachment 2

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

All three sponsor's previously organized a similar trip in April 2017



15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

Restore or Retreat is a 501(c)3 non profit that works daily to advocate for the large-scale, sustainable restoration of the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins of the MS River Delta. Our work includes educational briefings, field trips, and stakeholder/community meetings/outreach on specific projects and Master Plan.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate	\$200-700 (depending upon origin location)	\$156 (inc. tax)	\$120 (\$60/day)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts				

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

The entire agenda was planned specifically with regard to Congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

These are particularly good locations to observe Louisiana's land loss crisis, as well as future restoration opportunities.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

International House, 221 Camp Street, New Orleans, 70130

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

Convenient location and cost

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

Lodging and meals are under per diem

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Commercial flights (economy class); chartered minibus; airboats; small aircraft

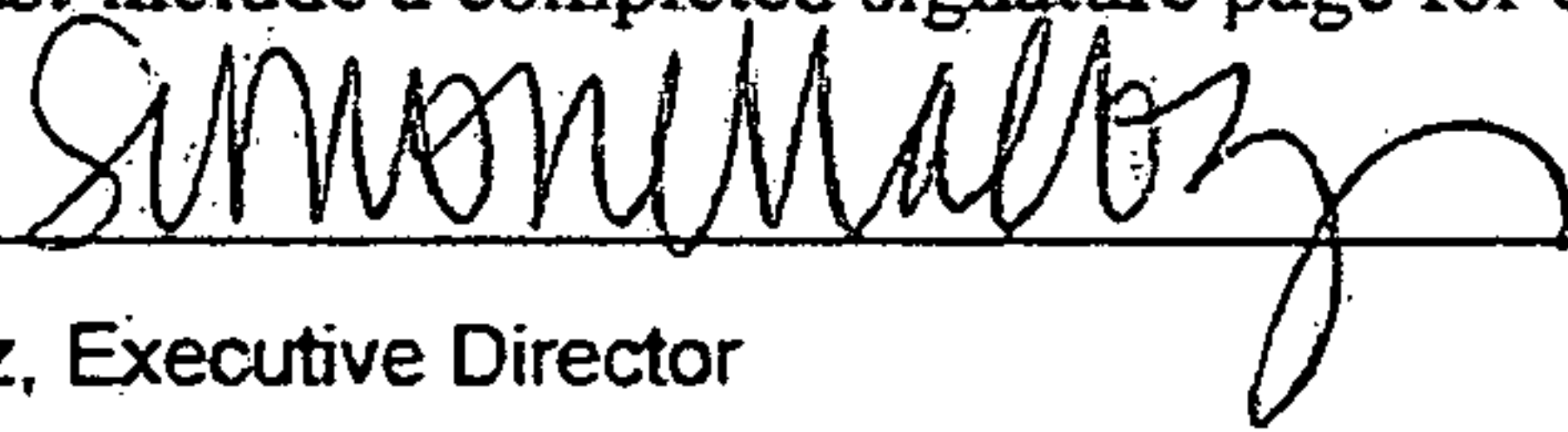
23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

None

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor:



Name and Title: Simone Maloz, Executive Director

Name of Organization: Restore or Retreat

Address: 322 Audubon Drive, P.O. Box 2048-NSU, Thibodaux, LA 70130

Telephone Number: 985-448-4485

Fax Number: 985-448-4486

E-mail Address: simone.maloz@nicholls.edu





February 15, 2018

Dear Friend,

We are writing to invite you to join us this March in Southeast Louisiana for a site visit to learn about ongoing restoration efforts in the Mississippi River Delta and their economic implications. With funding from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, we are implementing Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan and have a unique opportunity to work across state lines at all levels of government toward a more resilient, comprehensively restored Gulf Coast.

We would like to share an update on the Master Plan, which contains projects that have been Congressionally authorized through Water Resources Development Acts. One project in particular, the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, is covered under the FAST-41 Act and is included on the Federal Permitting Dashboard. Diversions are critically important tools for addressing our land loss crisis, which has serious implications for the entire Gulf Coast's natural resource dependent economy. As we get closer to implementing these cornerstone projects, we want Congressional staff members to have opportunities to see the exciting possibilities associated with the success of these projects, and to ask any questions about how the State of Louisiana is working with partners – both NGO and industry – and state and federal agencies to proactively meet stakeholder needs and address concerns. With funding in hand, Louisiana can be a model for resilience as Congress is considering major infrastructure priorities during the upcoming months.

This two-day, one-night trip will include briefings from state officials, industry representatives, and local NGOs, centered around interactive boat tours of the Davis Pond diversion and a flyover of coastal Louisiana. We will also take a tour of Port Fourchon, which is at the very leading edge of both land loss and large-scale restoration. Transportation, lodging and meals will be covered.

The dates of the trip will be **Tuesday, March 27 through Wednesday, March 28**. Please RSVP to Simone Maloz at [simone.maloz@nicholls.edu](mailto:simone.maloz@nicholls.edu) by **Wednesday, February 21**, as spots are limited, and ethics forms will have to be submitted by each participating office 30 days in advance. This trip has been planned in accordance with ethics rules, and we will provide a full agenda for submission to the Ethics Committees.

We hope to see you on the Bayou!

Sincerely,

Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority  
Greater Lafourche Port Commission  
Restore or Retreat

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First name	Last name	Office	email
Kolo	Rathburn	Senate Commerce Justice and Science Appropriations, Majority	<u><a href="mailto:Kolo_Rathburn@appro.senate.gov">Kolo_Rathburn@appro.senate.gov</a></u>
Marcie	Smith	Senator John Kennedy	<u><a href="mailto:Marcie_Smith@kennedy.senate.gov">Marcie_Smith@kennedy.senate.gov</a></u>
Bret	Sparks	Senator Roger Wicker	<u><a href="mailto:bret_sparks@wicker.senate.gov">bret_sparks@wicker.senate.gov</a></u>

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**Senate Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form**

**Restore or Retreat**

**Attachment 2**

Restore or Retreat is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help identify and expedite the implementation of aggressive, large-scale restoration projects to protect the Barataria and Terrebonne Basins of the Mississippi River Delta. Participants will view some of those projects on the trip.

11/11/2024 11:11 AM



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Reston, VA 20190 | 703.438.6000 | [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)

February 23, 2018

U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics  
220 Hart Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

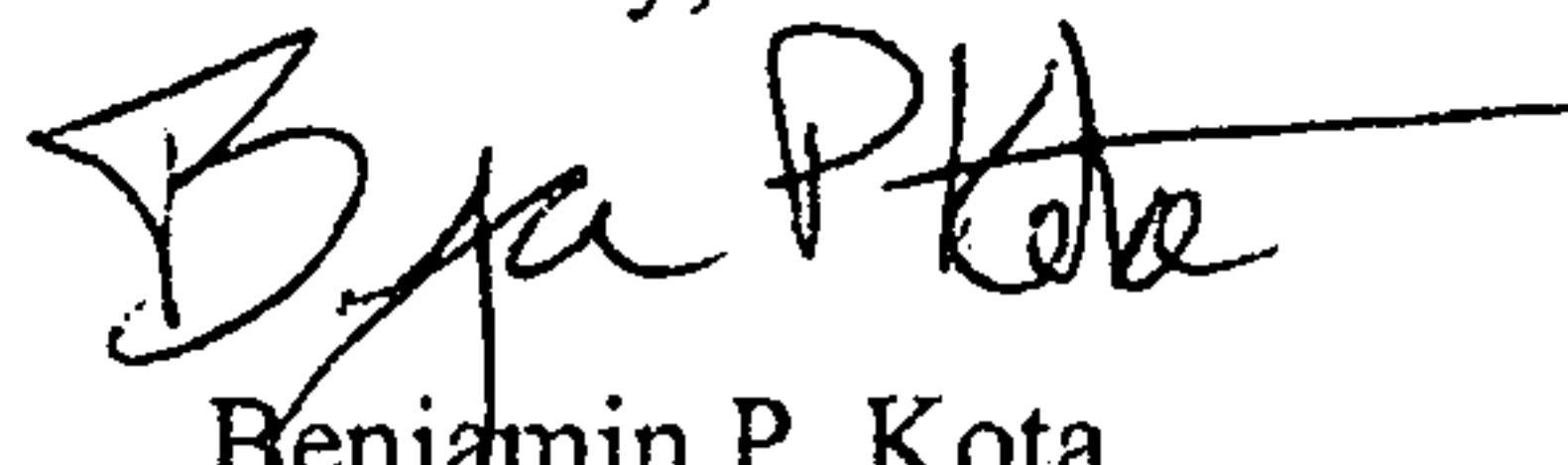
To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to inform your office that the National Wildlife Federation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, has provided a grant to Restore or Retreat, Inc., a Louisiana 501(c)(3) nonprofit, for the purpose of educating participants on the values of wetland conservation.

All required documentation will be provided to the respective Senate and House Committees on Ethics.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Benjamin P. Kota  
General Counsel



**Coastal Louisiana Congressional Staff Trip March 27-28**  
**New Orleans, LA and Galliano, LA**

**Purpose:** To educate Congressional offices on Louisiana's land loss crisis and the Coastal Master Plan to address it; discuss Gulf-wide collaboration and federal agency involvement in the effort; and demonstrate national economic importance of restoration, specifically by highlighting Port Fourchon operations, development and involvement in restoration activities.

**Sponsoring Organizations:** Restore or Retreat, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (State Government), Greater Lafourche Port Commission (Local Government)

**Participating Organizations:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Restore the Mississippi River Delta Coalition

**Attire:** Casual. For boat tours, please wear appropriate shoes and bring sun protection.

***Tuesday, March 27***

**8:30-10:30 am:**

**American flight #5559 DCA to MSY**

Contact for arrivals: Simone Maloz (Restore or Retreat) will meet the delegation at baggage claim #7 with a sign reading "Welcome Congressional Delegation" and will proceed to the bus. Simone cell: 985-688-3290

**11:00-11:30 am:**

**Chartered Bus to Davis Pond**

Program: Welcome, introductions and presentation by Steve Cochran, Restore the Mississippi River Delta: Framing an Issue of National Importance

**11:30 am-2:30 pm:**

**Lunch Briefing and Davis Pond Tour**

*Participants will pre-select lunch from Cochon Butcher.*

Program: Briefing at diversion structure by Bren Haase (CPRA) and John Troutman (CPRA) and viewing of outfall area followed by airboat tour narrated by Simone Maloz. Includes observations of beneficial freshwater into the area and benefits of proactive conservation management, as well as discussion on possible legislation needed for future adaptive management and appropriations.

*The Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion was authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1928, and recently amended in the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. Located in St. Charles Parish on the west bank of the Mississippi River, approximately 15 miles upstream of New Orleans, the project was designed to divert fresh water, with its accompanying nutrients and sediments, from the Mississippi River into rapidly eroding the Barataria Basin – reducing saltwater intrusion and establishing favorable salinity conditions in the area, thus combating land loss. We will tour the diversion structure along the river, and then, via airboat, tour the outfall channels into Lake Cataouatche and Salvador.*

- 2:30-3:30 pm:** **Chartered Bus to International House**
- 3:30 pm:** **Check in at International House**  
Location: 221 Camp Street New Orleans, LA 70130
- 4:45 pm:** **Walk to Dickie Brennan's Tableau**  
Location: 616 St. Peter Street New Orleans, LA 70116
- 5:00-5:45 pm:** **Briefing**  
Program: Historical overview of Mississippi River Delta degradation and restoration by David Muth (Restore the Mississippi Delta Restoration Coalition) and presentation by John Lopez (Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation) on what we have learned from existing diversions, followed by discussion on the effects the history has on conservation management today, potential future restoration opportunities, and possible future legislative requests.
- 6:00-8:00 pm:** **Dinner**  
Program: Remarks from restaurateur Dickie Brennan and local chef Georgie Brower on the importance of coastal restoration to the tourism industry. Remarks and Briefing on Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan from Chip Kline (Governor's Office of Coastal Activities).

### **RON International House**

***Wednesday, March 28***

- 7:45-8:00 am:** **Drive to Lakefront airport**
- 8:00-8:30 am:** **Pre-flight briefing and light breakfast**  
Program: Flight path preview by David Muth  
Location: Messina's at the Terminal, Front Café
- 8:30-10:30 am:** **Coastal Flyover to Galliano**  
Program: Each plane will contain a guide who will narrate the flyover and highlight both the problem and projects underway to address it. Details below on flyover details; discussion will cover observations to eroding landscape and ramifications to the local environment and economy, as well as local, state, and federal efforts planned to restore the area and associated dialogue on how to implement projects, including and especially permitting.
- After taking off from the Lakefront Airport along Lake Pontchartrain, the flyover will take passengers through the Barataria Basin, over the proposed Mid Barataria Sediment Diversion site, and then west over the Morganza to the Gulf levee system in Terrebonne Parish. Participants will also see projects constructed with Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act Funding.*



*After crossing the eroding marshes of eastern Terrebonne, the passengers will see a stunning aerial view of the growing deltas of the Atchafalaya River and Wax Lake Outlet. Headed back east, the route then includes a flyover of the barrier islands and constructed Caminada Headland project.*

**10:30-11:45 am:**

**Transportation to Port Fourchon**

Program: Windshield tour to view Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection system, the degraded marshes outside the levee system, and the elevated LA-1 highway project narrated by Simone Maloz and Joni Tuck (Greater Lafourche Port Commission). Includes dialogue on concerns related to implementation of projects, including mitigation and permitting processes, and impact restoration of area will have on local, state, and national economies.

**12:00-1:00 pm:**

**Lunch Briefing at Port Fourchon EOC**

*Participants will enjoy a Louisiana seafood boil by Heads and Tails*

Program: Port presentation from Chett Chiasson (Port Fourchon) and Presentation on Roseau Cane by Todd Baker of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Rodrigo Diez of the LSU AgCenter

*Port Fourchon plays a strategic role in furnishing the country with about 18% of its entire oil supply. While the Greater Lafourche Port Commission actively pursues its purpose of stimulating commercial development, it accepts as part of its mission the responsibility of acknowledging the environmental value of the setting in which Port Fourchon is located. The Port Commission works diligently to protect and restore the coastal landscape and habitats the surround it.*

*Additionally, recently detected large-scale die-offs of Roseau cane are threatening Louisiana's coast, ecosystems and economy. A correlation has been detected between the die-offs and the presence of an invasive scale insect. This impact is being seen in the Mississippi River Delta and other coastal areas of Louisiana. Roseau cane helps to protect our marsh, coastal areas and the Mississippi River channel from erosion, reduces storm surge, protects oil and gas pipelines, and provides habitat for fisheries and migratory birds. In order to determine the best approach for combating the wide-scale loss of Roseau cane along the Louisiana gulf coast, a multi-agency effort is underway. The LSU AgCenter, in cooperation with Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers have developed a research proposal, currently underway, to understand the cause of the die-offs.*

**1:00-2:00 pm:**

**Boat Tour of Port Fourchon**

Program: Waterside tour of Port Fourchon led by Chett Chiasson. Discussion will include legislation and approval needed by federal entities for port growth, as well as explanation of synergies between energy and environment.

*Waterside tour of Port facilities will include an up close look at current development, large scale offshore services facilities, as well as the first LNG vessel fueling station in the US. Participants will see the Port's mitigation area, maritime forest ridge in the distance, as well as the West Belle Pass project and Caminada Headlands on our way out to the jetties. While in that reach, Chett will also talk about planned port expansion, and how deepening their channel will yield up to 35 million cubic yards of material to be used largely for restoration works across the region over and above the Port's planned development and associated mitigation.*

**2:00-3:00 pm:**

**Caminada Beach Tour**

Program: Participants will view the 7 miles of restored beach and dune habitat narrated by Brad Miller (CPRA). Remarks from Tanner Johnson (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation).

*The Caminada Headland Beach and Dune Restoration Project is located south and east of Port Fourchon in Lafourche Parish which represents the largest investment to date by the State of Louisiana in a single beach or barrier island restoration project. The headland is a 14-mile-long undeveloped beach that stretches from West Belle Pass on the west to Caminada Pass on the east, protecting Port Fourchon, providing critical beach and dune habitat for nesting shorebirds, and accommodating culturally significant recreational activities in the form of fishing, crabbing, and beachcombing. This project has received federal funding through the Coastal Impact Assistance Program and the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act. It has also received funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which was created by Congress in 1984.*

**3:00-4:30 pm:**

**Chartered Bus to MSY**

**6:45-10:15 pm:**

**American flight #5389 MSY to DCA**