May 22, 2013

The Acting Secretary Cameron Kerry
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Development of the Restoration Comprehensive Plan

Dear Acting Secretary Cameron Kerry:

As leaders in the hunting and fishing community, we are encouraged to see the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council commit to ensuring the long term health, prosperity, and resilience of the Gulf Coast. Developing a comprehensive restoration plan in collaboration with the people who live, work, and recreate in the Gulf is essential. We commend your willingness to coordinate with stakeholder groups that are active in restoration of the Gulf Coast region.

Truly one of America’s greatest natural resources, the Gulf Coast is near and dear to the heart of sportsmen and women throughout the country. Its beaches, islands, bays, wetlands, and forests provide endless opportunities to enjoy the bounty of this productive landscape.

We believe investments in long-term ecosystem restoration will drive economic prosperity in the Gulf Coast region. The people, businesses, communities, and economy of this region are undeniably reliant upon a healthy and productive Gulf, and ecosystem restoration should be the top priority in drafting and finalizing the Council’s Comprehensive Restoration Plan.

Hunters and anglers have long been considered leaders in conservation and, as such, we have demonstrated an unrivaled commitment to protecting wildlife and wild places. We firmly believe in the value of responsible stewardship of our natural resources. We are committed to this responsibility and have even advocated taxing ourselves to fund fish and wildlife conservation and restoration.

Hunters and anglers exemplify the fact that habitat restoration and wildlife conservation can drive and support economic recovery. Sportsmen and women spent $90 billion on hunting and fishing in the United States in 2011. That same year, in the five Gulf States alone, nearly 8.5 million hunters and anglers spent $15.7 billion pursuing their passion. This spending supports over 255,000 jobs and generates $3.3 billion in federal, state, and local taxes.

The loss of healthy and productive habitat means the loss of quality hunting and angling opportunities. If the wild spaces of the Gulf region aren’t protected and restored, sportsmen and women will lose the
return on their long-standing investment, and the region will lose its rich hunting and angling heritage. A 
restored and productive Gulf ecosystem is essential for both regional and national economic recovery 
and growth. Every dollar spent on ecosystem restoration helps the recovery of the Gulf’s natural 
resource based economy.

The national hunting and fishing community was at the forefront of the efforts to pass the RESTORE Act 
and we intend to see this through. Funding from the RESTORE Act provides a long-awaited opportunity 
to address comprehensive ecosystem restoration for the Gulf. The Council has the responsibility to 
direct unprecedented resources into restoring one of the most important ecosystems in the country. We 
are counting on you. We look forward to working with you to restore the Gulf.

Sincerely,

5 Stone Advertising  
6 R Upland Kennels  
A and M Baits  
Abu-Garcia Reels  
Ace’s Gun Dog Kennels  
Activist Angler.com  
Adventure South Guide Service  
Alabama Game and Fish Magazine  
Alabama Wildlife Federation  
Alan Stie Promotions  
Alan Stie School of Turkey Calling  
Albornoz and Associates  
Andros Boatworks  
Angler’s Lodge  
Angling Technologies  
Anoka Game Fair  
Arbogast Lures  
Arkansas Sportsmen Magazine  
Arkansas Wildlife Federation  
Arrow Head Point Lodge on Lake Texoma  
B.A.S.S. Conservation  
B.A.S.S. of Washington  
Backwater Charters  
Banded Productions  
BASS  
Bass Angler Magazine  
Bee Rock Land, LLC  
Behind the Blinds Labradors  
Big "O" Charters LLC  
Bill Lewis Lures

Bill Linder Photography  
Black Bear Conservation Coalition  
Blackburn Financial Group  
Blanchett Outdoor Adventures  
Blue Heron Communications  
Boggy River Ranch  
Bomber Lures  
Booyah Baits  
Boudreaux's Marina  
Bow Hunter Magazine  
Bowden2Bowden LLC  
Bowhunting Adventures Magazine  
Bowhunting.net  
Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society  
Bridges Photography  
British Field Trial Society of America  
Brogden Farms  
Bro’s Guide Service  
Bull Moose Sportsmen’s Alliance  
Bumper Stumper Lures  
Byewood Press  
C&S Custom Calls  
Cajun Fishing Adventures  
California Game and Fish Magazine  
CallingDucks.com  
Calmwater Charters  
Caminita Wildlife Art  
CARECO TV LLC  
Castalia Outdoors  
Category 5 Outdoors
Chef KD’s Louisiana Legends Catering
Chef KD’s Outdoors and More TV
Christian Water Fowlers Association
Clam Corporation/Polar Sport, LLC
Classic Taxidermy
Coastal Angler Magazine-New Orleans
ColoradoOutdoors.Net
Compass Game Works
Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
ConservAmerica
Conservation Force
Cotton Cordell Lures
Creative Resources
Creek Chub Lures
Dallas Safari Club
Davenport Construction
Davenport Solutions
DCS Photo, Inc.
Decoy Outdoors
Discount Realty Corp
DOG Democrats Own Guns
Double D Guide Service
Dr. Fitz Consulting
Drake Waterfowl Systems
Driftwood Outdoors
Duck Junkies
Ducks Unlimited Manatee Chapter
Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle
EcoSystem Renewal, LLC
eDIGImag eMagazine Publisher
Enos Mall on Lake Texoma
Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry
Farm-Land Strategies LLC
Fenwick Rods
FishBuzz TV
Fishing for Life
Fishing Tackle Retailer Magazine
Florida B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Florida Game and Fish Magazine
Florida Sportsmen Magazine
Florida Wildlife Federation
Fly & Light Tackle Angler magazine
Fly Fisherman Magazine
Four Flyways Outfitters
Fowl Play Game Calls
Fowl Play Game Calls
FowlNation.com
Friends of Pool 2
Full Spectrum Photography & Journalism
Georgia B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Georgia Sportsmen Magazine
Global Manufacturing Associates
Gnap Theater Projects!
Goose Cowboys Guide Service
Gopher Bassmasters
Gordys Wildlife
Gotta Go Charters
Great Lakes Outdoors,
Great Plains Game and Fish Magazine
Gulf Coast Chapter British Field Trial Society
Gulf Coast Waterfowl Festival
Gun Dog Magazine
Guns and Ammo Magazine
Habitat Flats
Handguns Magazine
Hard Core Primo's Decoys
Hardcore Waterfowler
Hawk Associates Marketing, Inc
Haydel's Game Calls Inc.
Heartland Outdoors
Heddon Lures
Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
High Falls Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation
Hodgeman Waders
Hoffmann Game Birds
Homerun Outfitters
Homerun Taxidermy
Hotdawg Guide Services
Hunt ducks.com
HuntingLife.com
Ice Men TV
Illinois Game and Fish Magazine
In Fisherman Magazine
The World Aquarium and Conservation for the Oceans
The World of Outfitting
Thomas Allen Outdoors
Tink Nathan
Tink Nathan's Legendary Hunting Moments TV Series
Tink's Adventurevision Video Studios, Inc
TNT Charter Fishing
Tony Roach
Totally Wild Seasonings
Traditions Media LLC
Tru Recoil
TV Photography
United States Freshwater Fishing Federation
USA Ice Team
Venice Charters
Venice Sportsman Lodge
Vicious Fishing
Virginia Game and Fish Magazine
Washington-Oregon Game and Fish Magazine
Watson Hunting Camp and Bar
WeareDuckHunters .com

Webley and Scott Firearms
WeGoLook.com
West Virginia Game and Fish Magazine
Whopper Baits
Wicked Gear Fishing
Wild Wings LLC
Wilderness Babe Productions
WildFowl Magazine
Wildhorse Creek Hunters and Anglers
Wildlife Forever
Wisconsin Sportsmen Magazine
Woerner Consulting, Inc.
Wolf Pack Adventures
Womenhunters.com
Wood Land and Cattle, LLC
Woody's Custom Rods
Wyoming Wildlife Federation
XCaliber Lures
XSpecktations Guide Service of Dulac
Yellow Dog Fly Fishing
Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures
YumBaits

CC:
Robert Bentley
Governor of Alabama
600 Dexter Ave
Montgomery, AL 36130

Rick Scott
Governor of Florida
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Phil Bryant
Governor of Mississippi
P.O. Box 139
Jackson, MS 39205

Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Thomas J. Vilsack
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250

John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
Department of the Army
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314

Bob Perciasepe
Acting Administrator
Janet Napolitano  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
300 7th St SW  

Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C St NW  
Washington, DC 20240