

Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
350 New Orleans • A Community Voice • ACLU of Louisiana x Justice Lab
Action for a Livable Tomorrow • Alliance for Affordable Energy • Ashé Cultural Arts Center
Center for Biological Diversity • Center for International Environmental Law
Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development • Climate Reality Project – New Orleans
Coalition Against Death Alley • Concerned Citizens of St. John • Earthjustice
Greater New Orleans Interfaith Coalition • Healthy Gulf
Holy Cross Neighborhood Association • Inclusive Louisiana • Justice & Beyond
Louisiana Bucket Brigade • Louisiana League of Conscious Voters
Loyola University Environmental Law Society
New Orleans Musicians Clinic & Assistance Foundation • No Waste Louisiana
Pax Christi USA – New Orleans • Residents of Gordon Plaza • RISE St. James
Sierra Club – New Orleans Office • Southwings • Zion Travelers Cooperative Center

May 21, 2021

The Honorable John Bel Edwards
Office of the Governor
PO Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
Via electronic mail to: jbe@la.gov

Dear Governor Edwards:

Louisiana has a pollution problem that disproportionately harms the health of Black and Indigenous residents and increasingly warms our planet. As the elected leader of our state, we urge you to take action that is informed by science and ensures equity.

For decades, Louisiana families on the frontlines of toxic industrial facilities, coastal erosion, and the climate crisis have called for a moratorium on governmental approvals that permit toxic pollution in our air and water and subject our lands to the damaging effects of industrial operations. Their calls for a moratorium have not been answered as once historic and livable communities in Louisiana – Reveilletown, Sunrise, Morrisonville, Diamond, Mossville, Bayou Corne, and Isle de Jean Charles – have been displaced by industrial operations and climate-induced sea level rise. Instead, the oil and gas industry along with its derivative plastic manufacturers continue to increase as environmental permits and tax incentives are issued by your administration.

On May 18, 2021, the International Energy Agency joined the call to urge governments and investors around the world to [stop fossil fuel projects](#) in order to stave off the worst of the climate crisis. The IEA report shows that we have a narrow window of time to transition to renewable energy and electrification. We do not have time for unproven methods of carbon capture and underground storage being advanced by the same industries that have caused the climate crisis and environmental injustice.

We urge you to direct an all-of-government approach that stops pending and proposed coal, oil, gas, and other greenhouse gas emitting projects. Just as you are leading a way forward on recovery from COVID-19, we ask that you take a stand for advancing equitable solutions to oil, gas, and plastic pollution in Louisiana.

We are here to assist your efforts to achieve environmental justice and climate justice for the people and our future.

Sincerely,

Beverly Wright, Executive Director
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
9801 Lake Forest Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70127
beverlyw@dscej.org

Claire Giesen and Andy Kowalczyk
350 New Orleans
claregiesen@gmail.com, a.kowalczyk350no@gmail.com

Debra Campbell, Chairperson
A Community Voice
communityvoice.a@gmail.com

Stephanie M. Rodriguez
ACLU of Louisiana x Justice Lab
srodriguez@laaclu.org

Frances Kelley, Director
Action for a Livable Tomorrow
frances.elizabeth.kelley@gmail.com

Logan Atkinson Burke, Executive Director
Alliance for Affordable Energy
logan@all4energy.org

Asali D. Ecclesiastes, Executive Director
Ashé Cultural Arts Center
ceo@ashenola.org

Miyoko Sakashita
Center for Biological Diversity
miyoko@biologicaldiversity.org

Carroll Muffett, President & CEO
Center for International Environmental Law
cmuffett@ciel.org

Arthur Johnson, CEO
Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development
ajohnson@sustainthenine.org

Peter Digre
Climate Reality Project, New Orleans Chapter
peterdigre@gmail.com

Elizabeth Soychak
Coalition Against Death Alley
laundrylizbeth@gmail.com

Robert Taylor
Concerned Citizens of St. John
btcnola@gmail.com

Mike Brown, Staff Attorney
Earthjustice
mlbrown@earthjustice.org

Rev. Gregory Manning
Greater New Orleans Interfaith Coalition
gmanning1973@yahoo.com

Cynthia Sarthou, Executive Director
Healthy Gulf
cyn@healthygulf.org

Brooke Randolph
Holy Cross Neighborhood Association
gbrandolph2@gmail.com

Barbara Washington, Gail LaBoeuf, and Myrtle Felton
Inclusive Louisiana
bobbybee51@hotmail.com, gleboeuf27@gmail.com

Sylvia McKenzie
Justice & Beyond
Louisiana League of Conscious Voters
sylviamckenzie79@gmail.com

Anne Rolfes, Founding Director
Louisiana Bucket Brigade
anne@labucketbrigade.org

Caitlion O'Neill, President
Loyola Environmental Law Society
els@loyno.edu

Bethany Bultman, Director and President
New Orleans Musicians Clinic and Assistance Foundation
bb@nomaf.org

Jane Patton, Director
No Waste Louisiana
jane@nowastela.org

Ben Gordon
Pax Christi USA in New Orleans
benhgordon@yahoo.com

Shannon Rainey, President
Residents of Gordon Plaza
148rainey@gmail.com

Sharon Lavigne, Founder and President
RISE St. James
sharonclavigne@gmail.com

Darryl Malek-Wiley, Senior Organizing Representative
Sierra Club – New Orleans Office
darryl.malek-wiley@sierraclub.org

Virginia Richard, Gulf Program Manager
Southwings
virginia@southwings.org

Lyric Turner, Youth Director
Zion Travelers Cooperative Center
turnerlyric91@gmail.com