



JEFFERSON PARISH

ECOSYSTEM AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT

CYNTHIA LEE SHENG
PARISH PRESIDENT

MICHELLE M. GONZALES
DIRECTOR

March 17, 2021

RE: Letter of Support
EPA-Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member, Rep. Sam Graves
Reauthorization of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program

Dear Representative DeFazio,

We are pleased to submit this letter in support of the EPA funded Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, which has allowed for the continual improvement of the ecological health of Lake Pontchartrain and the surrounding areas, and the execution of numerous public education and outreach endeavors. While the ecological health of the Lake Pontchartrain system has continued to improve, negative impacts from human activity and climate related issues has only increased.

This program is critically important to the ongoing and future restorative efforts underway and planned for this system. The Lake Pontchartrain Basin and surrounding areas contain invaluable wetland habitat that not only provides ecosystem services related to water filtration, carbon sequestration, and habitat for wildlife, but protection from storm surge, which will always be a threat to the lives, culture and economy of the people of Southeast Louisiana.

Jefferson Parish strongly encourages you to vote in favor of the reauthorization of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gonzales, CFM | Director
Jefferson Parish Department of Ecosystem and Coastal Management