

JOHN BEL EDWARDS GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

JACK MONTOUCET SECRETARY

May 14, 2018

RE: Caddo Lake National Heritage Area

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) supports Senator Cassidy's legislation to create a Caddo Lake Natural Heritage Area due to the high conservation value of the area. The Caddo Lake area provides habitat for over 60 of Louisiana's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), including mollusks amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, and plants, and is home to three unique natural communities. The opportunity to conserve the area aligns with our agency mission to manage, conserve, and promote wise utilization of Louisiana's renewable fish and wildlife resources and their supporting habitats for the social and economic benefit of current and future generations. Further, the legislation is in line with LDWF's Wildlife Action Plan, the blueprint for guiding LDWF and conservation partners in the development and implementation of management actions for Louisiana's fish and wildlife species with emphasis on SGCN and associated habitats.

Sincerely

Randell S. Myers Assistant Secretary Office of Wildlife