

BILL CASSIDY, M.D.
LOUISIANA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
SUITE SH-520
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5824

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

July 28, 2017

The Honorable Ryan K. Zinke
Secretary
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

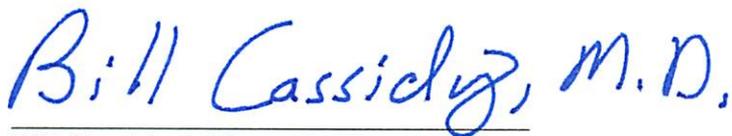
Thank you for your leadership and service to our country. Your efforts to fulfill President Trump's pledge to make the United States energy dominant will provide good paying jobs for American workers, reduce our dependence on foreign oil imports, and increase revenues from more activity in the Gulf of Mexico.

Louisiana's coastline is a working coast and is one of the country's top producing states for oil and natural gas, employing thousands of hard working men and women. In addition to offshore platforms, some of our nation's most vital energy infrastructure such as oil and gas refineries, offshore service vessels, ports, and hundreds of miles of pipelines are spread throughout south Louisiana. Unfortunately, the future of our coast has been and continues to be threatened. Since the 1930's, the State of Louisiana has lost approximately 2,000 square miles of land to coastal erosion, a loss that continues today at approximately one football field each hour. Revenues derived from activity in the Gulf are dedicated solely toward efforts to restore and protect our coastline, which is also home to many vulnerable communities and conservation areas. One example is the Breton National Wildlife Refuge located off Louisiana's coast. Established in 1904 by President Theodore Roosevelt, it is the Nation's second oldest National Wildlife Refuge and serves as a breeding ground for our state bird, the Brown Pelican, and other migratory birds and wildlife.

Given your commitment to work with me on issues impacting our coast, I invite you to visit Louisiana to view the coast, learn how Louisiana uses offshore leasing revenues for coastal restoration projects, and how cuts to those revenues would impact vulnerable regions as well as America's energy supply chain.

I thank you and your staff for the ongoing communication and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience regarding your availability.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

3600 JACKSON STREET
SUITE 115A
ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301
(318) 448-7176

5555 HILTON AVENUE
SUITE 100
BATON ROUGE, LA 70808
(225) 929-7711

101 LA RUE FRANCE
SUITE 505
LAFAYETTE, LA 70508
(337) 261-1400

1 LAKESHORE DRIVE
SUITE 1155
LAKE CHARLES, LA 70629
(337) 261-1400

3421 N. CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD
SUITE 204
METAIRIE, LA 70002
(504) 838-0130

1651 LOUISVILLE AVENUE
SUITE 123
MONROE, LA 70201
(318) 324-2111

6425 YOUREE DRIVE
SUITE 415
SHREVEPORT, LA 71105
(318) 798-3215