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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

Office of Emergency Preparedness

PRESS RELEASE

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Lafourche Residents Urged to Support the Gulf Economic Survival Team

Parish President Charlotte Randolph is urging Lafourche Parish residents to wear and display red ribbons and sign the online petition in support of an end to the moratorium on deepwater offshore drilling. The ribbons and petition are part of the overall effort by the newly formed Gulf Economic Survival Team (GEST).

“This moratorium will affect us *all* for many years,” said President Randolph. “We need to stand up together as a region with one collective voice, and the Gulf Economic Survival Team will allow us to do just that.”

At the request of Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, Lieutenant Governor Scott Angelle led the formation of the GEST. This team consisting of Chambers of Commerce, business organizations and local elected officials in coastal Louisiana have joined together to urge President Barack Obama and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to take swift and appropriate action on federal drilling regulations and end the drilling moratorium quickly in an effort to save over 20,000 jobs in the region.

The team’s message is simple: The Administration’s May 28 order, suspending all existing offshore drilling in depths greater than 500 feet for a minimum of six months, will cause significant harm to Louisiana’s energy service industry and hurt coastal communities already suffering tremendously from the environmental and economic impacts of the BP oil spill.

Lieutenant Governor Angelle said, “This moratorium, while well intended, will negatively impact the entire economy of coastal Louisiana including the traditional energy support workers and everyone from retail store owners to store clerks, from auto dealers to auto mechanics, from restaurant owners to restaurant workers, the housing and financial markets; and tax collections for our school boards and local governments.”

For more information about the GEST, visit the website at www.GEST.LA.gov. You can also access the website and the online petition through a link on the homepage of Lafourche Parish Government’s website, www.LafourcheGov.org.

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