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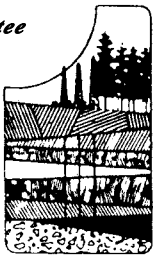
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PRESS RELEASE 3/17/14

Baton Rouge, LA - The Louisiana Landowners Association ("LLA") is working with other organizations, associations and legislators to reach an agreement on the Louisiana legacy sites issue. The Landowners Association represents hundreds of large and small landowners throughout Louisiana. The membership owns and manages over 2 million acres in the State. Clearly, landowners are the ultimate stakeholders in this critical discourse.

"What landowners seek is a solution that will - if not eliminate - at least dramatically reduce the concern by some energy industry leaders of frivolous lawsuits," said Gordon Wogan, President of the LLA. "At the same time we want to insure that landowners have a legitimate process to insure timely restoration of lands left un-remediated. Our goal is to have a process in place that provides assurances that any decision regarding responsibilities for clean-up and remediation will be a fair one, for both the landowner and industry."

Louisiana has been blessed with vast mineral and other natural resources. Industry has long recognized the great value of these resources as evidenced by over a century of investments and drilling operations. Through these many years, Louisiana landowners and the industry have had a positive relationship. Landowners acknowledge the substantial contribution by industry to our State's economy. Many LLA members have ownership in oil and gas interests as well as long-standing agreements for production on their lands.

Only the land itself will remain after these non-renewable mineral resources are depleted. The energy industry will shift to other domestic regions and foreign countries in future search of hydrocarbons. Trial lawyers will transfer their focus to other, unrelated tort actions. Thus, the core of this discussion must be the condition of the land for future generations of Louisianians after all the other parties move on. Will farm lands produce crops at the quantity and quality levels that farmers here have historically generated? Will the timberlands continue to be rich in their harvestable, renewable resource necessary for wood products used across America and the world?

Will Louisiana's coastline, waterways and marshes remain pristine? Will the natural bounty of seafood still be available? Will the State be the same sportsman's paradise as it was before industry arrived?

The Louisiana Landowners Association believes parties responsible for these damages should be held accountable for their cleanup. It also believes that frivolous lawsuits, or lawsuits based on specious or highly speculative science and claims, only frustrate the process, delay

the timely remediation of damaged and contaminated property, and exponentially increase the cost to all interested parties. A trusted, independent and preliminary process should be established which provides for accurate evaluation of damages and the potential for the prompt implementation of remedial action. After such a process of preliminary evaluation, perhaps through mandatory mediation, if either party then wishes to proceed in court, neither party should be prevented from doing so.

Citizens of Louisiana have the right to expect that parties responsible for contamination should also be held accountable for its clean-up. The most effective way to eliminate or reduce lawsuits is for the party or parties responsible for the contamination and operational waste to remove it promptly and to return the land to commerce and economic productivity. Industry's failure to do so has forced landowners to engage in costly and time consuming litigation, resulting in the verdicts about which they now so loudly complain. Wouldn't Industry's resources be better spent in promptly cleaning up the contamination they have caused rather focusing all of their money and energy trying to avoid responsibility by playing their own game of 'litigation lottery'? No industry and no profession in America is, or should be, allowed immunity for damages caused by its conduct.

"The Louisiana Landowners Association hopes this ongoing inflammatory dialogue will cease," stated Wogan. "We look forward to working with industry representatives, attorneys, members of the Louisiana Legislature and the Administration in this endeavor. There is proposed legislation that we believe can be a constructive first step in accomplishing this goal for the best interests of our State, its people and unique lands."