



# ELLEVATE

## LOUISIANA

## 2024 Environment & Infrastructure Policy Statements

### **Restructuring of DENR & CPRA**

Ellevate Louisiana has concerns about the speed at which the legislature and administration are moving to restructure DENR (formerly DNR) and CPRA. It is of utmost importance to preserve and enhance the scientific rigor of those institutions so that we are strong stewards of the natural environment that we inhabit.

### **Abandoned Wells**

Louisiana currently enjoys a federal grant to help clean up a portion of the 4,500 abandoned wells on its lands and in its waters. There is an opportunity for additional grants in the future, however, that funding will be tied to measuring methane emissions from, and water quality around, the abandoned wells. The state should work conscientiously within the confines of that program to remediate wells that already exist and concentrate on preventing future abandonment.

### **Coastal Land Loss**

Louisiana's coast is disappearing at alarming rates. The state is fighting a constant battle to restore its coast and is anticipating a fiscal cliff due to the projected depletion of the BP Oil Spill money in 2032. It is crucial that the state maintain scientific rigor in this important work and plan for the fiscal cliff in 2032. Ellevate Louisiana ardently believes that the CPRA should remain a single state entity with authority over Louisiana's coastline. Furthermore, we believe that a portion of every surplus should continue to be appropriated to this important effort for as long as there are surpluses. Beyond that point, it is incumbent upon us to identify new funding sources to replace BP Oil Spill funds when they are exhausted.