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Energy Industry Unites Behind America's Energy Coast Initiative

A new initiative to support ecological sustainability and establish the Gulf Coast energy-producing states as a valued national asset, brought together representatives from the energy, shipping and engineering industries this week to learn about the newest project of the America's WETLAND Foundation the America's Energy Coast Initiative.

At a reception hosted by U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu at her Capitol Hill home, the region's leading industry representatives learned how the Gulf Coast can be recognized not only for the vast amount of energy it supplies to the nation, but also as a model of sustainability and stewardship.

"Louisiana, as well as Texas, Mississippi and Alabama represent America's Energy Coast and are the core of the 7th largest economic engine in the world. It is time that these states join together and support our shared interests here, in Washington, and at home," said Senator Mary Landrieu, who serves as Co-chair of America's Energy Coast Honorary Leadership Council along with Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi.

"We are bringing together the powerful gulf energy-producing states with the leaders of government, industry and conservation in an open and ongoing dialogue. At the America's Energy Coast Leadership Forums, the discussion will focus on maintaining a secure domestic energy supply while sustaining the region's working and natural landscapes for the future," said Valsin A. Marmillion, Director of the America's WETLAND Foundation.

Leaders of industry will form the America's Energy Coast Industry Council. Together, the Honorary Leadership Council and the Industry Council will promote sustainability policies for the region, build support for protecting and restoring coastal landscapes, and work to meet the challenges of a secure energy future. Both Councils will meet during two annual Leadership Forums, the Federal Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. and a Gulf Coast Leadership Forum in the Gulf Region.

The America's WETLAND Foundation is supported by a growing coalition of world, national and state conservation and environmental organizations and has drawn private support from businesses that see that sustainable coasts as a key to economic growth. To learn more about the America's WETLAND Foundation, the Campaign or the America's Energy Coast Initiative please visit www.americaswetland.com.