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July 14, 2017

Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Attn: Blake Schindler
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 1219, 2017-2018 Congress, "To provide for stability of title to certain land in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes"

Dear Senator Cassidy:

I write as President to the Louisiana Landowners Association, Inc. ("LLA"). The LLA is a Louisiana non-profit corporation composed of over 200 landowners who, in the aggregate, hold title to over 2 million acres of land in Louisiana. The LLA represents large and small landowners from across the state, having diverse interests — including farmers, timber owners, developers, bankers, ranchers and others — all of whom are committed to work together to ensure the maximum productive use of Louisiana's rich land and mineral resources. The LLA's mission is to protect the rights of individuals to own, hold, use and dispose of land by channeling resources and concerns through a single, united voice.

The LLA fully supports S.1219, which is intended "[t]o provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes". Upon reviewing the historical record that led to the introduction of this resolution, the LLA was disturbed to learn that the Federal Government, through its Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"), claims ownership of lands which have been held under private title for over a century. The BLM's claim is even more troubling due to what appears to be its failure to give proper notice of its intent to assert title to these lands to the private landowners of record who were clearly impacted by its decision. An endorsement of this tactic would allow the Federal Government to claim ownership of private land with nothing more than an obscure notice buried deep in the thousands of pages comprising the Federal Register.

The BLM's claim, and the procedure employed to assert it, will affect far more than just the private landowners of record having a stake in the outcome of this dispute. It will affect all private enterprises having an interest in these lands, interests which include a wide range of commercial and economic interests, including banking, retail, timber and mineral development.

The legislative solution proposed by S. 1219 provides the most cost-efficient solution to the issue presented and will avoid the time and expense of inevitable litigation if this dispute is not resolved by the passage of this resolution.

For these reasons, the LLA fully supports S. 1219.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregory C. Lier".

Gregory C. Lier, President

cc: Board of Directors
Louisiana Landowners Association

Mr. J. Davis Powell
Davidson Summers, APLC