Proclamation

WHEREAS, America’s WETLAND, a vast landscape extending along Louisiana’s coast and home to a unique and intricate ecosystem, is disappearing at a rate of 25 square miles per year; and

WHEREAS, America’s WETLAND is an area of world ecological significance and of strategic importance to our national economy and energy security, and is at great risk; and

WHEREAS, the state has lost 2,100 square miles of land since the 1930’s and is expected to lose another 500 square miles over the next 50 years if nothing is done to save it; and

WHEREAS, America’s WETLAND is the wintering habitat for millions of waterfowl and migratory birds whose habitat is lost as the wetlands disappear, and the nation relies on Louisiana’s working wetlands to provide protection for oil and gas pipelines that serve as a major artery for delivering more than 25 percent of the nation’s energy; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana’s proposed Comprehensive Coastal Protection and Restoration Master Plan in an integral component in our work to preserve, protect and restore America’s WETLAND; and

WHEREAS, World Wetlands Day is celebrated around the world on February 2nd of each year by government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and groups of citizens in our global community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim February 2nd, 2007, as AMERICA'S WETLAND DAY

in the State of Louisiana, and urge all of our citizens to learn more about how comprehensive coastal protection includes both flood control and wetland restoration and to support efforts to raise awareness about the critical need for Louisiana to develop a sustainable coast.