

***New York Times Letter to the Editor***  
**8/5/2015**

John Barry's recent article "Is New Orleans Safe?" article accurately describes the existential issue of the coast to Southeast Louisiana. However, Mr. Barry should have noted that in response to this challenge, a growing voice of diverse stakeholders are championing coastal restoration in Louisiana. Business leaders from the banking, real estate, law, finance, entertainment, energy and communication industries are represented on the new Coalition for Coastal Resilience and Economy (CCRE), created by the economic development organization Greater New Orleans, Inc. CCRE is the business community platform for advancing the message that "ecosystem restoration is economic development." We recognize that as we stabilize our coast, we will not only save ourselves, but also develop expertise that we can then export to the rest of the world – as we already are to New York, as part of the Hurricane Sandy rebuilding effort.

Though Mr. Barry clearly describes the enormity of the challenge ahead, he did not consider the core asset which has propelled New Orleans from post-Katrina recovery to resiliency: a newly informed, engaged and passionate community.

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