

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. BJ 2009 - ____

Draft Executive Order on Climate Change

WHEREAS, there is consensus within the world's scientific community that sea levels and temperatures are rising globally and that our global climate is changing primarily due to the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses;

WHEREAS, with hundreds of miles of coastline and thousands of square miles of fragile low-lying coastal wetlands that are important to both the state's and nation's economies, Louisiana is more at-risk from the effects of rising sea levels and violent tropical storms than most other states;

WHEREAS, Louisiana's coastal wetlands help to protect coastal communities and infrastructure that supports coast-dependent industries such as energy development and fisheries;

WHEREAS, a significant economic benefit of Louisiana's at-risk low lying coastal wetlands derives from their productivity as fish and wildlife habitats and the commercial and recreational uses of their dependent natural resources;

WHEREAS, even outside of the coastal zone, climate change will impact agriculture, forest health, water quality and quantity, human health, ecosystems and wildlife habitat, the spread of invasive species and other resources and economic activities in potentially adverse ways;

WHEREAS, the leaders of major global industries have acknowledged the fact that the global climate is warming and that human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses are contributing to climate change;

WHEREAS, President Obama and President G. W. Bush have acknowledged that measures must be taken to mitigate the effects of climate change and that a strategy must be developed and implemented to reduce the contributions that the United States makes to the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses;

WHEREAS, other coastal states such as Florida, California, and North Carolina have adopted renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction standards;

WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks third among the fifty states in per capita energy consumption, and therefore contributes a relatively large share to the total U.S. carbon dioxide emissions;

WHEREAS, Louisiana has great potential to reduce and mitigate the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses through production of alternative and cleaner energy, carbon sequestration and energy conservation;

WHEREAS, Louisiana has substantial bioenergy production potential due to its productive agriculture and forestry industries, and considerable potential for the generation of power from wind and solar energy provided disincentives are removed and incentives applied, and therefore is poised to benefit economically from the production of alternative energy;

WHEREAS, the actions Louisiana takes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in concert with actions taken elsewhere in the United States and the world will help to avert adverse emissions-related climate change impacts in Louisiana in the long term;

WHEREAS, the actions Louisiana takes to adapt to climate change will help to sustain its economic vitality, the diversity and abundance of its natural resources and the resilience of its people in the face of extreme weather events;

WHEREAS, because of our rapid loss of coastal wetlands and the potential escalation of this crisis from rising sea levels caused by a warming climate, Louisiana should lead by example in the fight against global climate change by reducing our own emissions of greenhouse gases and demonstrating the economic value of such reductions.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: The designation of a Climate Change Coordinator in the Office of the Governor.

SECTION 2: The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, with the full cooperation of other state agencies, to annually update Louisiana's greenhouse gas emissions inventory using standards established by the The Climate Registry (theclimateregistry.org).

SECTION 3: The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to submit to my office by July 1, 2009 a draft implementation plan for reducing Louisiana's overall emissions of greenhouse gasses by 3 percent per year, with public notice given of the draft.

SECTION 4: All state agencies under my authority, by December 31, 2009, to evaluate the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the efficacy of their work and achievement of their missions, develop adaptation strategies to successfully sustain the achievement of their responsibilities and missions in response to climate change, and report their findings and adaptation strategies to the Climate Change Coordinator established in **SECTION 1** of this Order.

SECTION 5: Based upon the reports provided for in **SECTION 4**, the Climate Change Coordinator, with the full cooperation of all state agencies under my authority, to develop prior to the 2011 Regular Session, a Louisiana Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for consideration by the Louisiana Legislature.

SECTION 6: This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect until amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded by the governor, or terminated by operation of law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially
and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the city of Baton Rouge, on this ___ day of ____, 2009.

/S/ Bobby Jindal
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR

/S/ Jay Dardenne
SECRETARY OF STATE