

News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Senator Jeremy Stine sen27@legis.la.gov

January 18, 2024

Southwest Louisiana Legislators Endorse Governor Jeff Landry's Bridge Plan

Lake Charles, LA – Legislators representing Southwest Louisiana today announced support for Governor Jeff Landry's new I-10/Calcasieu River bridge plan, a significant shift from the previous administration's approach. Governor Landry, in his first visit to Southwest Louisiana as Governor, emphasized the need for transparent and effective infrastructure development, contrasting sharply with former Governor John Bel Edwards' less transparent and costly plan.

Governor Landry's proposal promises a 25% cost reduction from the previous administration's agreement and introduces a fair toll system with a flat discounted rate for all locals. The group of ten southwest Louisiana lawmakers will work with the Governor and all involved parties to lower that toll cost during the seven year build period. This move underscores the Governor and local leaders' joint commitment to affordability and community benefit.

Highlighting the recent traffic issues due to severe weather, Governor Landry pointed out that the new bridge would have mitigated these challenges, showcasing the urgency of the project.

Additionally, the plan includes a 15% equity commitment to the Imperial Calcasieu area, ensuring local infrastructure benefits directly from the project. This approach signifies a new era of inclusive and transparent governance.

Legislators backing this effort encourage the community to support this transformative project which is poised to make Southwest Louisiana a model for state-wide infrastructure development.

"We are immensely grateful to Governor Jeff Landry for his unwavering commitment to securing a deal that truly benefits the people of Southwest Louisiana," said the group of legislators. "His dedication to transparency and affordability for this bridge project reflects a genuine investment in the prosperity and well-being of our region."

Louisiana Legislators endorsing the bridge project include: Senators Mark Abraham, Mike Reese and Jeremy Stine as well as Representatives Ryan Bourriaque, Dewith Carrier, Les Farnum, Brett Geymann, Troy Romero and Phillip Tarver.