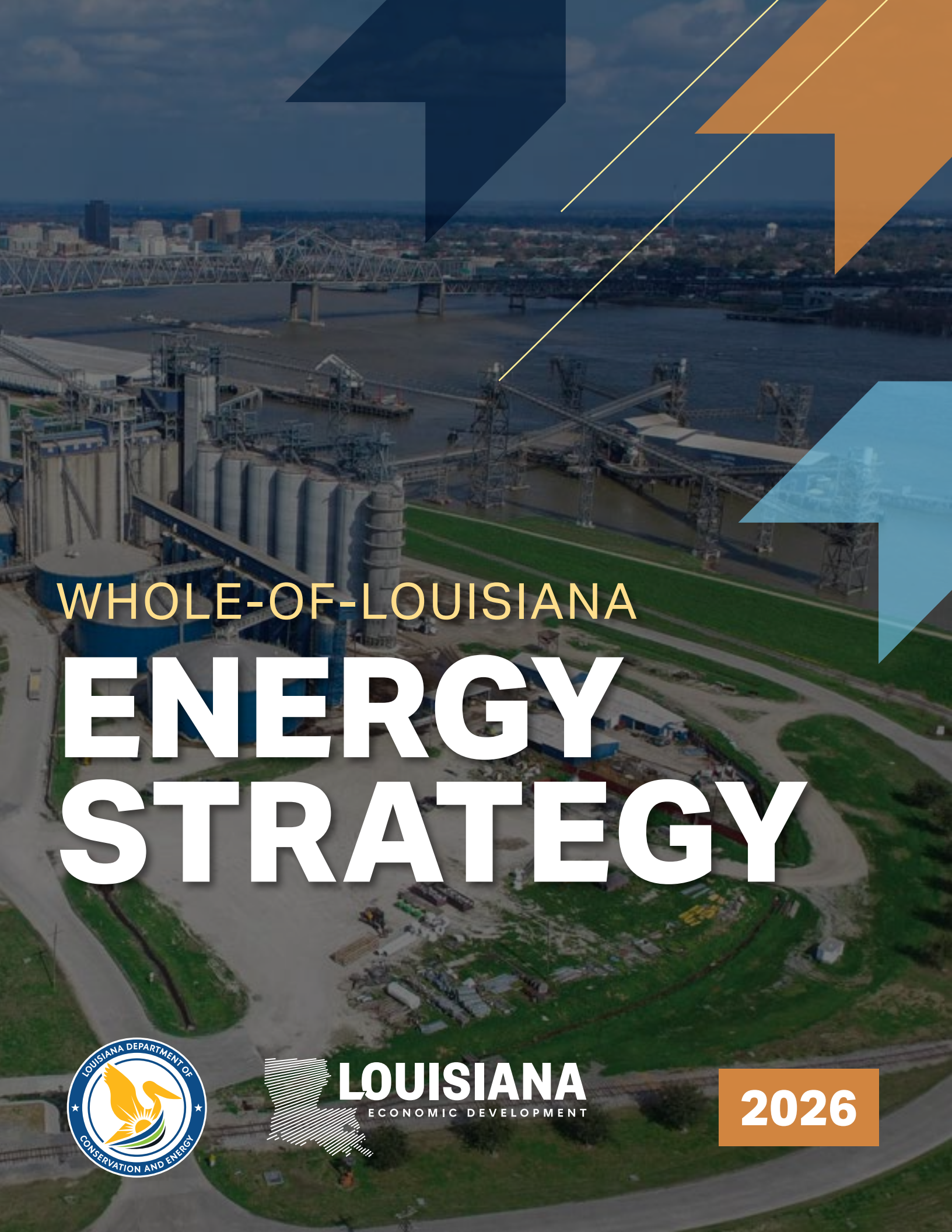

WHOLE-OF-LOUISIANA

ENERGY STRATEGY

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND ENERGY

LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2026

Energy has always shaped Louisiana's economy, and under President Trump's leadership, it is once again driving America's future. **With record investment and the creation of high-wage jobs, energy is at the center of Louisiana's economic momentum.** This Whole-of-Louisiana Energy Strategy brings clarity and coordination to the assets that make our state exceptional, while reinforcing our shared commitment with the President to American global energy dominance and long-term opportunity for our citizens.

— **Governor Jeff Landry**
State of Louisiana

Our strongest year of economic development results confirmed what happens when vision is matched with disciplined execution. This strategy builds directly on that momentum by aligning regional strengths within a clear, statewide framework for energy investment, innovation, and high-wage job creation. **Through a Whole-of-Louisiana approach, LED and our partners are positioning the state to lead globally while delivering real opportunity for Louisiana workers and communities.**

— **Secretary Susan Bourgeois**
Louisiana Economic Development

Louisiana's energy leadership is built on world-class natural resources, responsibly developed within a regulatory system that is reasonable and predictable to industry, while also protective and transparent for the public, providing clear communication to all stakeholders. This energy regulatory strategy allows LED and other state partners seeking to build the state's energy economy to provide clear guidance on permitting processes and greater predictability for companies investing here. **By safeguarding the resources and communities that make growth possible, we are strengthening Louisiana's energy leadership and future while protecting our shared environment.**

— **Secretary Dustin Davidson**
Department of Conservation and Energy

PHOTO: **The Calcasieu Ship Channel in Southwest Louisiana.**

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Executive Summary

PHOTO: **The Port of New Orleans, where marine cargo activity supported $101.5 billion in total U.S. economic value in 2024.**

INTRODUCTION

Louisiana's industrial foundation and world-class energy assets — coupled with the bold leadership of Gov. Jeff Landry, his administration, and statewide partners — are driving a new era of investment across the state. This unprecedented momentum culminated at the end of 2025, when Louisiana secured its most productive year for investment and job creation in state history.

Louisiana's 2025 Economic Development Strategic Plan, coupled with the Department of Conservation and Energy's new organizational model and strategic framework, has guided this growth and provides the foundation for this Whole-of-Louisiana Energy Strategy. To help translate this statewide strategy into local results, Regional Opportunity Frameworks clarify where specific energy, industrial, and innovation-focused efforts are best positioned to succeed based on each region's core assets and strengths.

By aligning state agencies, regional and local partners, regulators, utilities, and private industry around a shared vision and defined priorities, Louisiana is positioned to advance a more competitive energy economy and elevate its standing as a national and global energy leader in the years ahead.

With clear priorities, proven execution capability, and deep partnerships across the public and private sectors, Louisiana stands ready to compete, win, and deliver for investors and communities statewide.

LOUISIANA'S ENERGY VISION

LOUISIANA is the **U.S. location of choice** for **energy production, industrial investment,** and **workforce performance** — delivering the **resources, execution,** and **innovation** required to **meet global energy demand.**

STATEWIDE ENERGY PRIORITIES

Eight key priorities anchor this Whole-of-Louisiana Energy Strategy to strengthen competitiveness, accelerate investment, support communities, and position the state for long-term energy growth.

- **Expand Louisiana's industrial base and drill, baby, drill**
- **Deliver strategic energy solutions**
- **Unleash energy innovation**
- **Win global investments to grow local communities**
- **Align state services with the speed of business**
- **Establish Louisiana as the nation's industrial power leader**
- **Accelerate market-driven infrastructure development**
- **Strengthen community confidence in major investments**

THE LOUISIANA ENERGY ADVANTAGE

Louisiana's energy advantages guide the statewide priorities in the Whole-of-Louisiana Energy Strategy and position Louisiana to compete and win on a global scale.

Unmatched natural resources powering large-scale energy growth.

Louisiana is an anchor to one of the most productive energy regions in the U.S. With abundant natural resources, unique geological advantages, and one of the nation's most competitive natural gas markets, the state enables large-scale production, exports, and innovation across every segment of the energy economy.

Global market access through integrated ports, pipelines, and logistics.

The state delivers one of the most capable and connected logistics platforms in the nation. Deepwater ports, inland waterways, extensive pipeline systems, rail, and highway networks efficiently link production sites to domestic and global markets, strengthening supply chain reliability and speed to market.

Low-cost, reliable power at industrial scale.

Louisiana offers one of the most competitive power environments in the U.S., combining generation capacity, predictable access for large industrial users, and prices that consistently outperform peer states. The state's expanding nuclear power industry provides safe and reliable baseload power for industry partners and communities.

A world-class workforce built for Louisiana's next growth wave.

The state's energy and industrial workforce is among Louisiana's most valuable competitive assets, shaped by more than a century of oil, gas, petrochemical, and advanced industrial operations. This experience is reinforced by strong education, training, and workforce development systems aligned with industry needs.

An industrial ecosystem designed for speed, certainty, and execution.

Louisiana operates as a fully integrated industrial platform where skilled labor, suppliers, logistics networks, and industrial infrastructure are concentrated in close proximity. This ecosystem enables companies to execute projects efficiently, manage costs, and sustain productivity over the long term.

Louisiana Energy Highlights

30+ ports connecting industry to global markets

15 oil refineries with capacity to process **THREE MILLION** barrels of crude oil per day

50,000+ miles of pipelines moving energy products and materials

60%+ of all U.S. liquefied natural gas was exported from Louisiana in 2024

FIVE of the top 15 U.S. ports by total cargo volume are located in Louisiana

175 TRILLION cubic feet of recoverable natural gas held in the Haynesville Shale Formation

2 Foundational Context

PHOTO: **Port Fourchon in Lafourche Parish, which supports over 90% of deepwater oil and gas production in the U.S. Gulf.**

THE ENERGY HISTORY DRIVING TODAY'S UNPRECEDENTED MOMENTUM

For over 300 years, the Port of New Orleans has anchored international trade along the lower Mississippi River, laying the groundwork for the region's continued industrial expansion. Throughout the twentieth century, refinery and petrochemical development in strategic corridors created a powerful industrial base linked to national and global markets. Over time, deepwater ports and marine service hubs along the Gulf Coast expanded the state's role in offshore oil and gas production and international trade, while a growing network of pipelines, inland ports, and transportation hubs created a statewide, interconnected energy ecosystem. In the past fifteen years, the Haynesville Shale in northwest Louisiana has emerged as one of the most productive natural gas formations in the U.S.

Today, abundant natural gas and diverse feedstocks continue to power the state's energy economy, supported by one of the nation's most robust port and pipeline systems, low-cost and reliable industrial power, and a deep industrial contractor base with a track record of delivering large projects on schedule and on budget.

This industrial foundation — coupled with the bold leadership of Gov. Jeff Landry, his administration, and statewide partners — is driving a new era of investment across Louisiana. Meta's $27 billion data center, Woodside Energy's $17.5 billion LNG facility, Hyundai Steel's $5.8 billion ultra-low-carbon steel plant, Venture Global's $18 billion Plaquemines LNG expansion, ElementUSA's $850 million rare earth minerals facility, and many other new investments are demonstrating the confidence globally recognized companies have in Louisiana.

This unprecedented momentum culminated at the end of 2025, when Louisiana secured its most productive year of investment and job creation in state history — more than $61 billion in capital investment and over 9,300 direct new jobs with an estimated average salary of $91,000.

> **Louisiana has entered a new era of growth powered by businesses that believe in Louisiana and our people. As we carry this momentum into the new year, one thing is clear: there is now a new standard for how Louisiana competes and wins.**
>
> — GOV. JEFF LANDRY

A New Era of Investment Across Louisiana

$27 billion
META'S AI-OPTIMIZED DATA CENTER IN RICHLAND PARISH

$5.8 billion
HYUNDAI STEEL'S ULTRA-LOW-CARBON STEEL FACILITY IN DONALDSONVILLE

$17.5 billion
WOODSIDE ENERGY'S LNG FACILITY IN LAKE CHARLES

$18 billion
VENTURE GLOBAL'S LNG EXPANSION IN PLAQUEMINES PARISH

PHOTO: **Gov. Jeff Landry and Woodside Energy COO Daniel Kalms at the company's project announcement in Baton Rouge.**

POSITIONING LOUISIANA TO WIN

Under the leadership of Gov. Jeff Landry, LED partnered with key economic development leaders to support and pass Act 590 during Louisiana's 2024 Regular Legislative Session. Known as the "Positioning Louisiana to Win" bill, the legislation updated LED's organizational framework to better align with the best practices of other state economic development agencies, with an overarching focus on enabling LED to operate at the speed of business. Act 590 established the Louisiana Economic Development Partnership (LEDP), a private sector advisory board charged with guiding the development of LED's strategic plan and advising on policies, programs, and initiatives to accelerate economic growth in the state.

Guided by Act 590 and LEDP, LED engaged McKinsey & Co. and Emergent Method to develop a data-driven, comprehensive statewide economic development strategic plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of Louisiana's regional economies and communities. McKinsey led a comprehensive analysis of Louisiana's competitiveness, including rigorous benchmarking against national and global peers and assessments of the state's position across energy, industrial, and innovation sectors. Emergent Method led a robust statewide engagement effort, convening more than 300 stakeholders through eight regional workshops and in-depth interviews with agency leaders, elected officials, and industry partners to surface local nuances, strengths, and

The state's strategic planning process reaffirmed that **energy is one of Louisiana's most critical sectors**, not only for investment and job creation, but because it underpins growth in other key sectors like manufacturing, process industries, and other energy-intensive drivers of the state's economy.

PHOTO: **Secretary Bourgeois, LED leadership, and key bill supporters join Gov. Landry for the signing of Act 590 at the Louisiana State Capitol.**

PHOTO: **The Whole-of-Louisiana delegation at CERAWeek 2025 in Houston.**

priorities that data alone could not capture. This process produced a comprehensive statewide plan grounded in both quantitative insights and the perspectives of stakeholders across every region of the state.

In parallel, Louisiana modernized its energy governance structure through Act 458, which charged the Department of Conservation and Energy (C&E) to consolidate energy policy, resource management, and regulatory coordination under a single cabinet-level agency. This structural shift and a new C&E strategic plan strengthened execution capacity and alignment between economic development, energy planning, permitting, and federal engagement. Together, Act 590 and Act 458 created a more coordinated framework that links economic development strategy with energy policy execution, regulatory alignment, and project delivery.

WHOLE-OF-LOUISIANA ENERGY STRATEGY

Building on this momentum, LED and C&E conducted nearly twenty focused discussions with state cabinet leaders, industry executives, utility partners, and technical experts to shape this Whole-of-Louisiana Energy Strategy. Supported by an LED-C&E interagency agreement that deepens coordination on economic development, energy planning, and regulatory alignment, this strategy sets a clear statewide energy vision and priorities, paired with regional opportunity frameworks highlighting where each region's assets, strengths, and opportunities align with Louisiana's broader economic and energy objectives.

By aligning state agencies, regional and local partners, regulators, utilities, and private industry around a shared vision and defined priorities, Louisiana is positioned to advance a more competitive energy economy and elevate its standing as a national and global energy leader in the years ahead.

3

Louisiana's Energy Vision

« PHOTO: **LM Wind Power in New Orleans.**

LOUISIANA is the **U.S. location of choice** for **energy production, industrial investment,** and **workforce performance** — delivering the **resources, execution,** and **innovation** required to **meet global energy demand.**

PHOTO: **A line of oil tankers transporting fuel to the refineries located along the Mississippi River just north of New Orleans.**

4

The Louisiana Energy Advantage

PHOTO: **A skilled worker at Bollinger Shipyards, supporting shipbuilding, repair, and offshore services.**

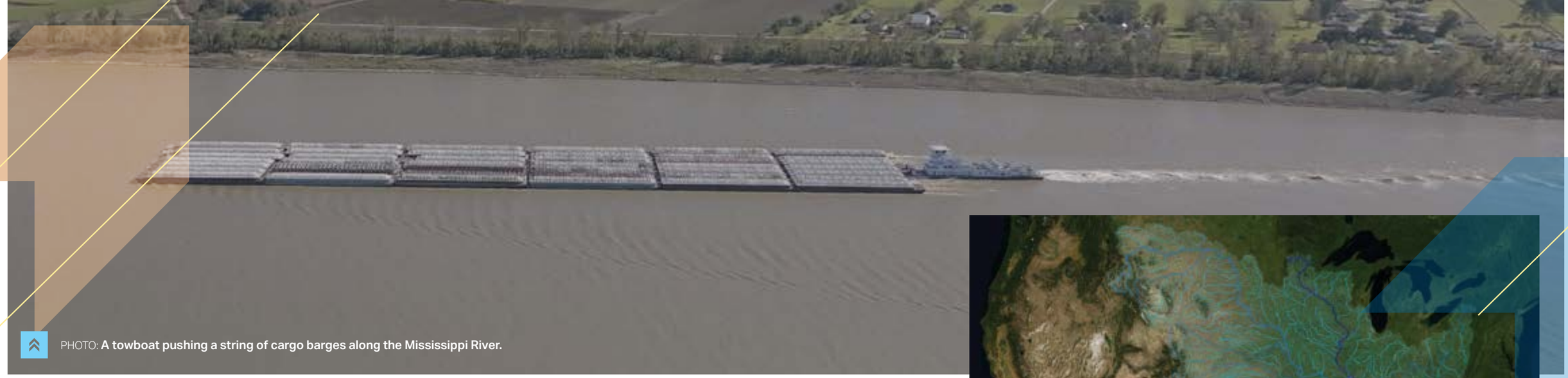


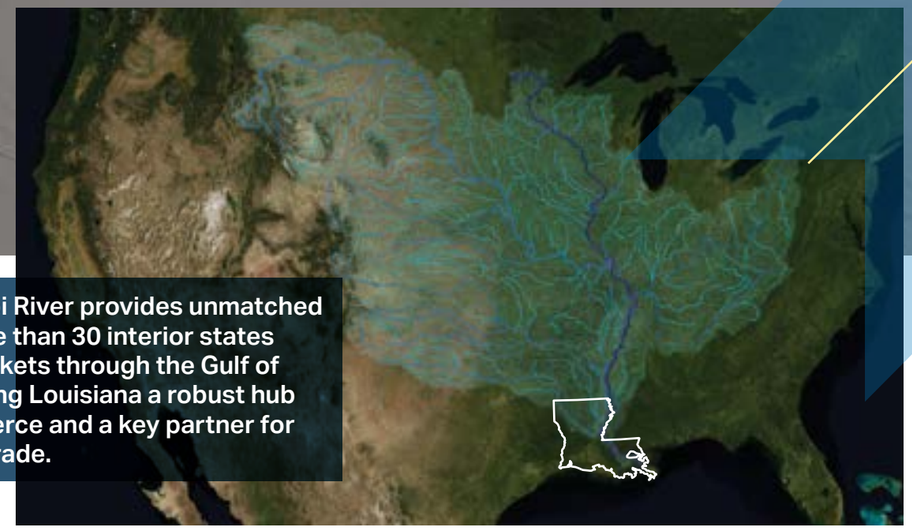
PHOTO: **A towboat pushing a string of cargo barges along the Mississippi River.**

Unmatched Natural Resources
Powering Large-Scale Energy Growth

Louisiana is an anchor to one of the most productive energy regions in the U.S.

With abundant natural resources, unique geological advantages, and one of the nation's most competitive natural gas markets, the state enables large-scale production, exports, and innovation across every segment of the energy economy.

- The Haynesville Shale contains approximately 175 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas (U.S. Geological Survey, 2016), providing a long-term, cost-competitive industrial feedstock that fuels liquefied natural gas (LNG), advanced manufacturing, petrochemicals, strategic fuels, and other critical industrial operations.
- Louisiana's existing LNG terminals have a combined capacity of nearly 8.4 billion cubic feet per day (Bcfd), with projects under construction representing over 11.5 Bcfd in additional capacity (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 2026).
- Haynesville supplies "dry" natural gas that can often move directly into pipelines with minimal processing, giving Louisiana a dependable feedstock advantage that is less tied to oil-driven "wet" gas production.
- Industrial natural gas costs in Louisiana are historically among the lowest in the country due to abundant supply, extensive pipeline connectivity, and geology suitable for long-term subsurface storage.
- The Henry Hub anchors U.S. natural gas pricing transparency, giving Louisiana and its customers clear market signals, stable contracting benchmarks, and direct connectivity through intrastate and interstate pipelines to major demand regions and LNG export terminals.



The Mississippi River provides unmatched access to more than 30 interior states and global markets through the Gulf of America, making Louisiana a robust hub for U.S. commerce and a key partner for international trade.

- Louisiana's abundant surface water and groundwater resources, including the Mississippi River system, the Red River, and large reservoirs such as Toledo Bend, provide a competitive advantage over neighboring states with water constraints. The state's water infrastructure provides industrial complexes and large-scale data centers with direct access to these expansive water resources.
- Louisiana holds Class VI primacy and is strengthening processes to accelerate permitting for carbon storage projects. Longstanding experience in regulating subsurface activities, paired with deep saline aquifers, porous sedimentary rock formations, and proximity to major industrial corridors, positions Louisiana to deliver low-carbon steel, LNG, hydrogen, ammonia, and other energy-intensive products in globally competitive markets.
- Louisiana's coastal zone and state waters are home to proven oil and gas fields with significant reserves, offering opportunities for new development, secondary recovery, and enhanced oil recovery (EOR).
- Gulf Coast reservoirs, existing infrastructure, and proximity to industrial CO_2 sources unlock remaining oil volumes through modern workovers, waterflood optimization, and future CO_2-based EOR.
- Abundant forestry and agricultural resources support bioenergy, renewable fuels, and specialty chemical production.
- Robust geothermal gradients position the state for future geothermal power as technologies mature.
- Lithium-rich brine in North Louisiana's Smackover Formation is poised to support substantial lithium extraction activities, especially with the growing national focus on critical mineral production. Beyond lithium, minerals such as graphite are also essential for lithium-ion batteries and other advanced technologies. With much of this supply currently sourced abroad, expanding domestic production and leveraging existing energy infrastructure is key to meeting national priorities.

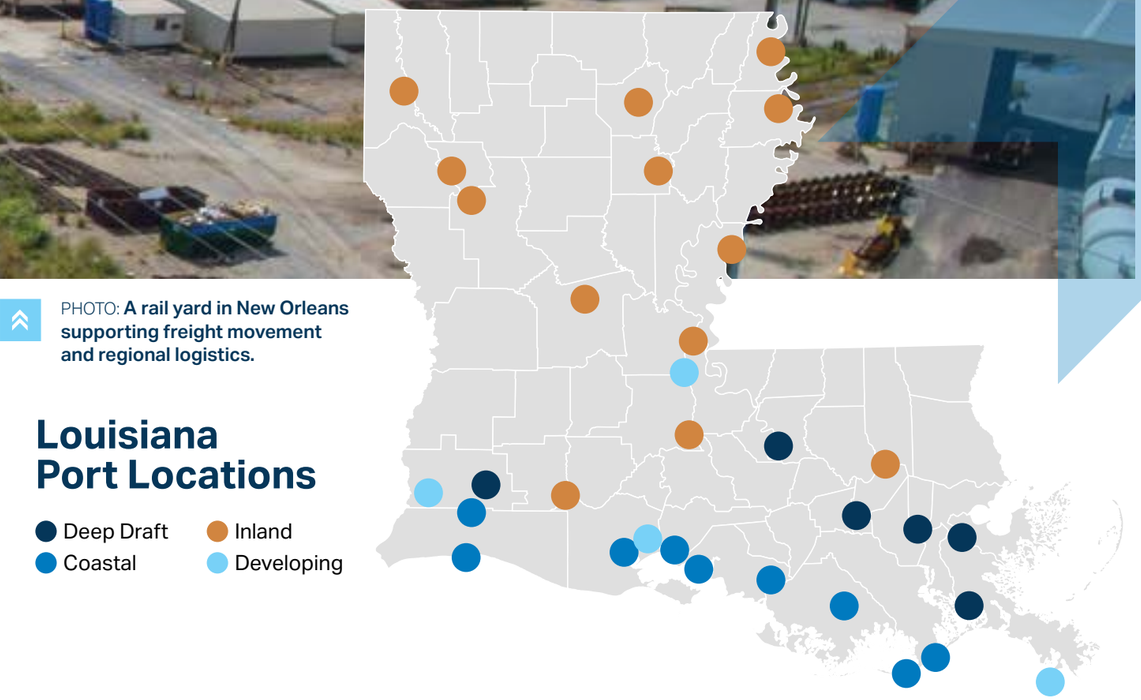
PHOTO: **A rail yard in New Orleans supporting freight movement and regional logistics.**

Global Market Access Through Integrated Ports, Pipelines, and Logistics

Louisiana delivers one of the most capable and connected logistics platforms in the U.S.

The state's ports, pipelines, rail networks, highways, and inland waterways provide unparalleled access to domestic and international markets.

- Louisiana exported more than 60% of U.S. LNG in 2024 (Energy Information Administration, 2024). Major projects from Woodside Energy and Venture Global are now under construction, and operating and FERC-approved export terminals — including Sabine Pass LNG, Lake Charles LNG, Magnolia LNG, Cameron LNG, and Commonwealth LNG — are positioned to expand Louisiana's leadership role in global LNG production and export.
- The Port of New Orleans is the only U.S. seaport with access to all six Class I railroads, via the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad, providing unmatched multimodal connectivity for project cargo and bulk commodities.
- Thirty-two public ports, including eight deepwater ports along the Mississippi River and Gulf Coast, provide direct access to Europe, Asia, Latin America, and major global trade lanes.
- Louisiana ports carry one-fourth of all waterborne commerce in the U.S., with the state maintaining five of the top 15 U.S. ports by tonnage (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2022).



- In 2024, Louisiana exported $87 billion in goods, about 28% of the state's economic output, with petroleum and chemical products driving more than half of that total (U.S. Census Bureau and International Trade Administration, 2024).
- More than 50,000 miles of pipelines connect production regions, processing facilities, storage, and export terminals, enabling movement of natural gas, liquids, refined products, and CO_2 throughout the state (C&E, 2024).
- Louisiana is home to Henry Hub, the official delivery point for New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) futures contracts. The hub connects to four intrastate and nine interstate pipelines and serves as the benchmark for U.S. natural gas pricing.
- The world's largest hydrogen pipeline network, owned and operated by Air Products, spans across South Louisiana's industrial corridor with a total capacity of over one billion standard cubic feet per day (Air Products, accessed January 2026).
- Six Class I railroads, integrated interstate corridors, and robust barge networks provide multimodal transport options for project cargo, bulk commodities, and finished products.

PHOTO: **Transmission lines in Richland Parish.**

Low-Cost, Reliable Power
at Industrial Scale

Louisiana offers one of the most competitive power environments in the U.S., combining abundant generation, predictable access for large industrial users, and prices that consistently outperform peer states.

- Louisiana ranked No. 1 in energy cost and No. 4 in energy availability in Area Development's 2025 Top States for Doing Business.
- In 2024, industrial customers paid 30% less than the U.S. industrial average (Energy Information Administration, 2024).
- Louisiana's industrial load, supportive regulatory environment, and recent legislative advancements create a streamlined pathway for expanding nuclear development and for attracting modular nuclear technologies that enhance energy stability.

PHOTO:
Meta's data center announcement in Richland Parish with Meta Director of Data Center Strategy Kevin Janda, Gov. Jeff Landry, Secretary Susan Bourgeois, U.S. Rep. Julia Letlow, Entergy Louisiana CEO Phillip May, and local officials.

- The Louisiana Public Service Commission's Lightning Amendment accelerates power readiness and interconnection processes to support large-load projects.
- State agencies, utilities, and regulators are working together to condense project timelines and capacity planning so that energy-intensive projects can invest with confidence.
- Louisiana's grid is designed to manage large industrial loads, with energy-intensive sectors accounting for a significant share of total electricity consumption.
- Recent wins, including Meta, Woodside Energy, Hyundai, and Venture Global, demonstrate Louisiana can deliver competitive power, large-scale sites, and regulatory coordination for globally recognized, energy-intensive projects.

PHOTO: **A Hayes Manufacturing employee in Pineville performing metal fabrication, reflecting the skilled trades that power the state's manufacturing sector.**

A **World-Class Workforce** Built for Louisiana's Next Growth Wave

Louisiana's energy and industrial workforce is one of the state's most important competitive assets, shaped by more than a century of oil, gas, petrochemical, and industrial operations.

Today's workforce builds on that legacy and is positioned to support the future of refining, LNG, hydrogen, carbon management, rare earth materials, advanced manufacturing, offshore energy, and other energy-focused sectors.

- The energy industry supports a large share of Louisiana's economy, employment, and earnings, with hundreds of thousands of jobs tied directly and indirectly to energy production and industrial activity.
- Louisiana's skilled manufacturing and industrial workforce brings highly transferable experience across refining, utilities, petrochemicals, offshore operations, and heavy construction, allowing legacy energy workers to move into emerging sectors such as carbon management, sustainable fuels, and nuclear power generation and manufacturing.

PHOTO: **Gov. Jeff Landry and Plaquemines LNG workers at Venture Global's $18 billion brownfield expansion announcement.**

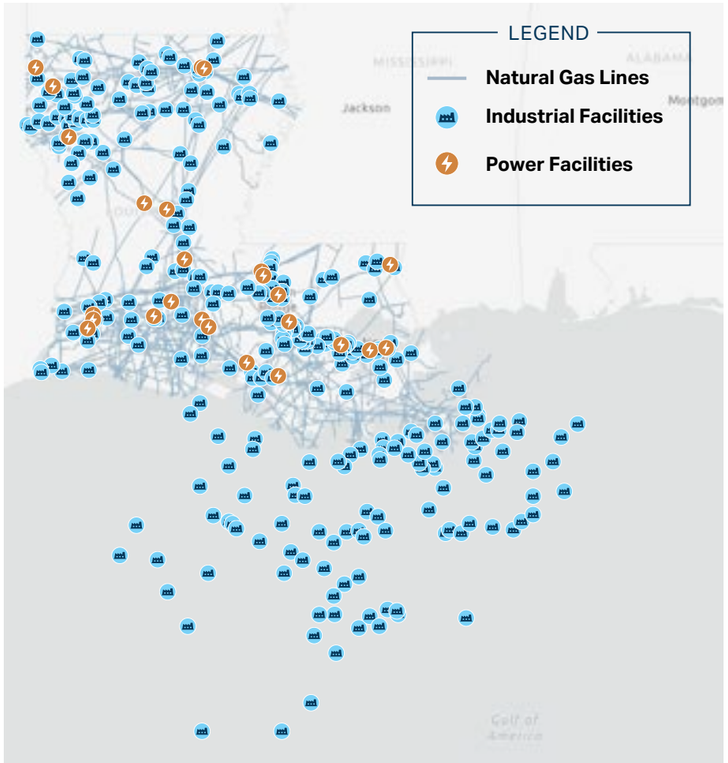
- Louisiana's project execution advantage includes a deep bench of Louisiana-based industrial contractors and Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) firms with a track record of delivering complex energy and manufacturing projects.
- Louisiana workers and companies helped build the nation's first commercial offshore wind farm, providing designers, engineers, ship operators, and marine welders. This reflects a workforce with deep, transferable expertise that can move confidently across traditional and emerging sectors.
- Business Facilities ranked LED FastStart as the nation's No. 1 customized workforce training program for 13 of the last 15 years.
- The Future Use of Energy in Louisiana (FUEL) coalition, led by Louisiana State University (LSU) and over 50 partners with a $160 million National Science Foundation (NSF) award, is elevating Louisiana as a global energy innovation leader through high-impact talent and technology development.
- Louisiana recorded the lowest incidence rate among private sector employers in 2023, earning national recognition for having the safest workforce in the U.S. (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023).

PHOTO: **Gov. Jeff Landry, Secretary Susan Bourgeois, Speaker Mike Johnson, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, and members of the Louisiana Legislature join Hyundai executives and President Donald Trump at the White House to announce Hyundai's $5.8 billion investment. State and local leaders, economic development partners, and project stakeholders attend a concurrent event in Ascension Parish.**

An **Industrial Ecosystem** Designed for Speed, Certainty, and Execution

Louisiana operates as a fully integrated industrial ecosystem where skilled labor, suppliers, logistics networks, and industrial infrastructure are concentrated within close proximity, enabling companies to build more efficiently, control costs, and keep projects productive over the long run.

- An extensive network of tier 1 and tier 2 suppliers supports every stage of large-scale development, from fabrication and machining to industrial construction and ongoing facility maintenance.
- Louisiana's industrial ecosystem, including existing nuclear generation facilities, positions the state to capitalize on nuclear design and manufacturing, nuclear generation, and nuclear fuel conversion and enrichment.
- Experienced EPC firms and contractors execute complex projects with precision, leveraging decades of energy sector expertise.
- Logistics providers across rail, highway, maritime, and terminal operations offer fully integrated solutions for moving heavy equipment and bulk materials.
- Professional service firms with deep energy and industrial knowledge guide companies through permitting, financing, commercial agreements, and long-term regulatory support.
- Local and regional economic development partners play a hands-on role in helping companies understand site conditions, connect with community leaders, and navigate local project dynamics.

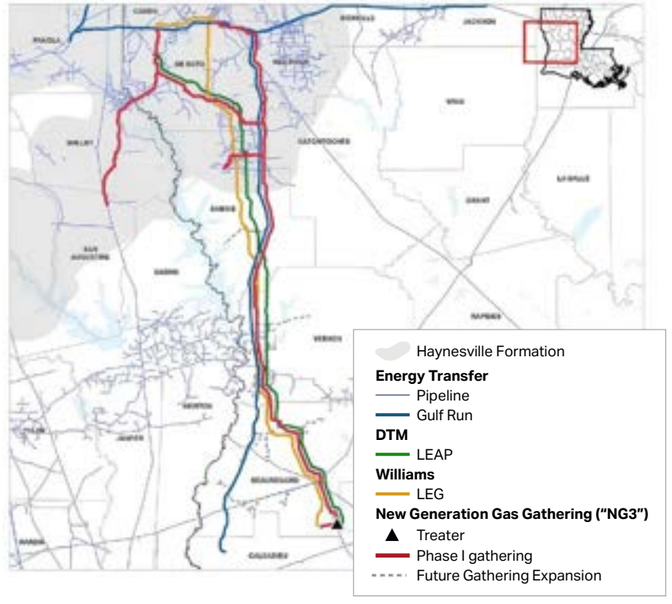


A Proven Environment for Industrial Growth

SOURCE: **Great Plains Institute**

Haynesville Shale Takeaway Projects

SOURCE:
New Generation Gas Gathering, LLC



5

Statewide Energy Priorities

PHOTO: **Workers at First Solar's $1.1 Billion AI-enabled facility in Iberia Parish, highlighting energy-adjacent manufacturing in the state.**

Eight key priorities anchor this Whole-of-Louisiana Energy Strategy to strengthen competitiveness, accelerate investment, support communities, and position the state for long-term energy growth.

PHOTO: **An offshore drilling rig in the Gulf of America.**

EXPAND LOUISIANA'S INDUSTRIAL BASE AND DRILL, BABY, DRILL

Unleash reinvestment, expansion, and in-state oil and gas production across Louisiana's energy sector and energy-adjacent industrial base to strengthen one of the state's most critical economic engines.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

With 15 refineries processing three million barrels of crude oil per day and a robust industrial base, Louisiana depends on the sustained production of these critical industry partners. As energy markets evolve, Louisiana's strategic Gulf Coast location and industrial infrastructure position the state to process a wide range of crude oil, including heavier grades from the Western Hemisphere and Venezuela, and convert them into high-demand products and increased economic output across the state.

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS

LED and C&E lead this priority under the direction of the Governor's Office, working with industry partners, economic development organizations, and members of the legislature. Together, they provide companies with the insights, resources, and connections needed to expand production and identify new market opportunities.

CURRENT MOMENTUM

Gov. Landry's leadership has established clear alignment across the legislature and with local officials for expanding oil and gas production and industrial investment. Executive Order JML 25-072 is driving policies to incentivize new exploration and production on state mineral leases, including royalty relief strategies and accelerating severance tax reductions and related reforms. LED's 9x90 Work Plan is supporting existing businesses 800 company visits each year, an AI-enabled small business toolkit, and Source Louisiana database to connect in-state businesses with industrial projects.

NEAR-TERM GOALS
(1 TO 2 YEARS)

- Capitalize on growth opportunities as crude supply dynamics shift across the Western Hemisphere and Venezuela.
- Continue to strengthen coordination across state agencies in anticipation of increased demand for processing, logistics, and downstream activity.
- Consistently meet LED's annual goal of completing 800 company visits to identify expansion opportunities.
- Leverage the Source Louisiana database to consistently increase and document connections between major projects and qualified Louisiana contractors.

LONG-TERM ASPIRATION
(5 YEARS)

Louisiana sets a national standard for increased domestic production and industrial investment by capitalizing on global market shifts and delivering global energy at scale.

PHOTO: **Gov. Jeff Landry during an economic development mission in Asia prior to Hyundai Steel's $5.8 billion steel mill announcement.**

WIN GLOBAL INVESTMENTS TO GROW LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Attract globally significant investments that create high-wage jobs, retain talent, and elevate communities across Louisiana.

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS

This priority is led by LED, working closely with the Governor's Office, C&E, and regional and local economic development organizations. These partners play an essential role in enhancing and positioning their on-the-ground assets while serving as a key conduit between companies and community stakeholders. Together, these partners help companies evaluate Louisiana with confidence and enable the success of their investments within host communities.

CURRENT MOMENTUM

Louisiana has established itself as a noteworthy competitor with the capacity to secure globally significant projects. Meta's $27 billion data center, Hyundai Steel's $5.8 billion manufacturing facility, Woodside Energy's $17.5 billion LNG facility, and Venture Global's $18 billion LNG expansion reflect the confidence of globally recognized companies. Rare earth investments from Ucore, Aclara, and ElementUSA signal Louisiana's emergence as a leader in next-generation strategic materials. These projects, among many others, are poised to elevate their surrounding communities by creating high-wage jobs, expanding local tax revenues, and strengthening long-term economic stability.

NEAR-TERM GOALS
(1 TO 2 YEARS)

- Successfully execute LED's targeted business development strategy in key domestic and global markets to meet the state's aggressive growth goals.
- Strengthen foreign direct investment (FDI) in Louisiana by leveraging the expertise of Louisiana's Board of International Commerce, the World Trade Center of New Orleans, and other FDI-focused partners.
- Continue advancing Louisiana's Project Lightning Speed Task Force to streamline coordination among state partners.
- Elevate LED's reputation as a premier location for business investment through the Opportunity Louisiana Campaign.

LONG-TERM ASPIRATION (5 YEARS)

New energy investments are strengthening local tax bases, retaining talent, and increasing population growth in every region of the state.

ACCELERATE MARKET-DRIVEN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Align infrastructure investments with the needs of growing companies by advancing investment-ready sites, strengthening industrial corridors, and accelerating project-ready investments statewide.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Companies choose locations where infrastructure is reliable, predictable, and aligned with long-term growth. Louisiana's competitive position depends on preparing industrial sites, improving logistics networks, and supporting infrastructure that meets the needs of the private sector. Surging demand from LNG production, industrial growth, and large-load users such as data centers is reshaping state and national infrastructure needs. With unmatched natural gas, port, and pipeline assets, Louisiana has an unprecedented opportunity to link these advantages directly to energy producers, utilities, and large power users through proactive engagement with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS

This priority is led by LED and the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), working closely with the legislature, utilities, ports, and economic development partners. Their collaboration strengthens Louisiana's ability to prepare sites, advance infrastructure investments, and accelerate project timelines. Expanded coordination with DOE and FERC positions the state to align federal rulemaking, permitting, and gas-electric planning with Louisiana's project pipeline and growth strategy.

CURRENT MOMENTUM

Louisiana is home to nearly 130 Certified Sites, and the state's new $150 million FastSites Program is deploying flexible capital tools to make industrial land market-ready. The Louisiana Public Service Commission's Lightning Amendment accelerates approvals and utility coordination for major load projects tied to economic development. At the federal level, DOE has proposed new rules to govern the interconnection of large loads such as data centers, and FERC's new leadership has signaled a focus on connecting these loads, streamlining LNG and related infrastructure permitting, and reducing unnecessary barriers for energy projects.

NEAR-TERM GOALS
(1 TO 2 YEARS)

- Advance coordinated decision making across state agencies, ports, utilities, and regional partners to accelerate infrastructure that directly responds to company needs while engaging DOE and FERC early in project planning.
- Facilitate pipeline development that strengthens north-to-south connectivity, ensuring natural gas from the Haynesville Shale can reach Louisiana's LNG terminals and emerging large-load consumers.
- Advance FastSites investments to accelerate site preparation and create new revenue streams that replenish and grow the fund for future use.
- Increase the number of Certified Sites positioned for near-term development in every region.
- Support utilities and ports in planning infrastructure improvements tied to emerging industrial demand.

LONG-TERM ASPIRATION
(5 YEARS)

Louisiana elevates its position as one of the most investment-ready environments in the U.S. by leveraging federal partnerships and removing unnecessary barriers between the state's abundant natural resources, end-users, and economic opportunities.

DELIVER STRATEGIC ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Accelerate the deployment of existing and emerging energy solutions by removing investment barriers, strengthening coordination with federal partners, and partnering with the Louisiana Legislature to enhance the state's competitiveness.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Global energy markets are evolving rapidly, and companies are investing where predictability and speed-to-market are prioritized. Louisiana has a right to win in LNG, carbon management, refining, nuclear, geothermal, strategic fuels, rare earth materials, lithium processing, and advanced grid solutions. If Louisiana executes with precision, this strategy will strengthen and grow every region of the state.

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS

Louisiana companies continue to drive innovation across strategic growth areas. LED supports private sector growth by leveraging the state's advantages and coordinating with C&E, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), DOTD, and other partners to provide streamlined services and oversight. The Governor's Office, C&E, and LED engage with legislators, DOE, FERC, and other federal partners to secure funding opportunities and accelerate investments. University partners advance applied research while economic development partners facilitate additional investments.

CURRENT MOMENTUM

Louisiana advanced significant tax reforms in 2024 by repealing the corporate franchise tax and flattening personal and corporate income tax rates. Woodside Energy and Venture Global have reaffirmed Louisiana's leadership in global gas markets. Lake Charles Methanol and additional renewable fuels investments are elevating the state's strategic fuels platform, while ElementUSA, Aclara, and Ucore fortify U.S. rare earth minerals supply chains and national security.

LED and C&E are developing a nuclear strategic framework to advance nuclear-related projects, components manufacturing, and technology commercialization, with an anticipated launch in the spring of 2026. C&E is deploying Louisiana's HERO Program in partnership with DOE to enhance statewide grid resilience. Meta's $27 billion data center has proven Louisiana's ability to deliver power and infrastructure solutions on time and at scale.

NEAR-TERM GOALS
(1 TO 2 YEARS)

- Facilitate additional investments in LNG, hydrogen, carbon management, enhanced oil recovery, rare earth materials, lithium processing, sustainable fuels, bioenergy, nuclear, geothermal, advanced grid solutions, and other growth areas.
- Position Louisiana as national leader in nuclear generation, manufacturing, and innovation.
- Build out C&E's Office of Energy to aggressively pursue and secure federal funding opportunities aligned with Louisiana's energy priorities.
- Capitalize on university and research strengths and a coordinated coalition of state, federal, and private sector leaders to expand DOE's presence in Louisiana.

LONG-TERM ASPIRATION
(5 YEARS)

Louisiana cements its role as a powerhouse in next-generation energy solutions by pairing private sector innovation, a robust federal funding portfolio, and a growing in-state DOE presence.

ALIGN STATE SERVICES WITH THE SPEED OF BUSINESS

Deliver seamless customer experiences through technology-enabled permitting, streamlined services, and a unified approach across state agencies.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Global investors prioritize speed, clarity, and certainty when evaluating major industrial and energy investments. Louisiana must strive to operate with the urgency and precision of the private sector to secure projects that will define the next generation of the state's economic growth while still protecting the environment and public safety. When state departments deliver streamlined customer experiences and permitting processes, they eliminate opportunity costs for companies, strengthen Louisiana's competitive advantage, and accelerate revenue generation for both private sector partners and local governments.

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS

LED, C&E, and DEQ lead this priority, supported by the Public Service Commission (PSC) for projects with advanced power needs. Together, these partners provide companies with coordinated guidance and targeted resources to enable energy sector growth across the state. Regional and local economic development organizations play a critical role in helping local elected officials and community stakeholders understand the benefits of timely permitting and project approvals and by publicly voicing data-driven support on behalf of the business community for growth-oriented projects.

CURRENT MOMENTUM

Project Lightning Speed is demonstrating how coordinated agency action can accelerate complex industrial projects. LED, C&E, and DEQ are exploring streamlined interagency information-sharing processes to support real-time tracking of critical path milestones. A cross-agency dashboard is under consideration to improve visibility, reduce bottlenecks, and accelerate execution across departments.

Enhanced and proactive coordination between the PSC and LED is strengthening front-end planning for power-intensive projects, allowing agencies to anticipate infrastructure needs earlier in the development cycle. In parallel, efforts are underway to modernize public-facing tools so communities can more easily understand permitting activity and the economic and community impacts of major projects.

NEAR-TERM GOALS
(1 TO 2 YEARS)

- Finalize data sharing agreements between agency partners to enable real-time coordination and the development of a cross-agency dashboard for LED, C&E, and DEQ.
- Expand LED's whole-of-government liaison function and delivery partnerships to provide a faster, more coordinated path from announcement through permitting and local engagement.
- Strengthen public transparency by publishing clear permitting milestones and project details that are appropriate for public release, along with community and economic impact information, so local leaders and stakeholders have timely, usable insight as major projects advance.

LONG-TERM ASPIRATION
(5 YEARS)

Louisiana sets a new national standard for deal process excellence by delivering the most efficient and predictable permitting experience while maintaining rigorous oversight.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY CONFIDENCE IN MAJOR INVESTMENTS

Equip companies with targeted community engagement tools and ensure local leaders have clear, timely information to support successful integration or expansion within communities.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Major projects achieve stronger outcomes when companies and communities begin with clear expectations and shared understanding. Companies need accurate, on-the-ground insights to enter or expand in communities the right way. At the same time, local leaders and residents deserve timely information about incoming projects, anticipated economic and community impacts, and a company's plans for integrating within a host community. When companies and communities align proactively, projects advance more smoothly, community trust is stronger, and long-term success becomes more likely.

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS

LED leads this priority in close coordination with C&E, local and regional economic development partners, parish and municipal officials, and other community stakeholders who understand local dynamics. These partners help companies understand local priorities, anticipate sensitivities, and identify opportunities for proactive engagement. Together, they strengthen alignment between companies and communities so major projects begin on solid footing.

CURRENT MOMENTUM

Louisiana's recent wave of major investments has highlighted the importance of proactive and structured community engagement. LED is strengthening its support for companies by developing action-oriented community engagement tools that help companies better understand the local dynamics in which they will operate. This includes preparing community profiles, mapping key stakeholders, and outlining early engagement strategies that reflect each region's unique priorities and dynamics. LED is also deepening coordination with regional partners and local officials to provide timely information as projects advance.

NEAR-TERM GOALS
(1 TO 2 YEARS)

- Provide companies with a community engagement framework that includes key stakeholders, community profiles, local priorities, and recommended engagement strategies.
- Establish a structured pre-announcement process so local partners are prepared to support companies during early stages of project development.
- Expand LED's capacity to support early engagement, community coordination, and post-construction planning.

LONG-TERM ASPIRATION
(5 YEARS)

Louisiana becomes nationally recognized as a state where major projects integrate and expand smoothly, companies form strong community relationships from day one, and local leaders are fully prepared to support long-term project success.

UNLEASH ENERGY INNOVATION

Accelerate the commercialization and deployment of breakthrough technologies by connecting researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders across Louisiana's energy and industrial economy.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Louisiana's industrial expertise, engineering base, and innovation ecosystem create the conditions for accelerated technology deployment. The state's proven capabilities in technology, energy, and process industries position Louisiana as an early mover in nuclear, geothermal, lithium, and other subsurface applications. When startups, researchers, and energy companies effectively collaborate, commercialization speeds up and capital investment follows.

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS

This priority is led by LED, with its LA.IO division serving as the state's central platform for energy and industrial innovation. Newlab, FUEL, university research partners, and private sector companies contribute critical capabilities in technology development, applied research, and commercialization.

CURRENT MOMENTUM

LA.IO has built a statewide innovation movement by connecting entrepreneurs, industry, and investors. Newlab's innovation hub will soon enable startups to scale new technologies across energy, maritime, and industrial power. FUEL is strengthening linkages between universities and industry in advanced fuels, digital technologies, and carbon management. The LSU Energy Institute, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Energy Institute, Tulane University's Freeman School Energy Institute, McNeese State University's LNG Center of Excellence, and other energy-focused initiatives are expanding research and industry collaboration.

NEAR-TERM GOALS
(1 TO 2 YEARS)

- Expand demonstration projects through Newlab's industrial testbed while building a pathway to help offboarding companies navigate Louisiana's business landscape, connect with strategic partners, and scale their technologies within the state.
- Strengthen research and development, technology commercialization, and workforce development through elevated coordination between LA.IO, FUEL, and university partners.
- Facilitate pilot projects between high-growth startups and major companies seeking technology solutions.
- Establish two new innovation accelerators aligned with statewide priorities.
- Elevate Louisiana's visibility as an innovation hub through targeted investor outreach, pilot announcements, and creative campaigns.

LONG-TERM ASPIRATION (5 YEARS)

Louisiana is recognized as a leading Gulf South hub for developing, piloting, and scaling energy technologies, with clear growth in R&D investment, industry-led pilots, and patent activity. Established companies and high-growth startups routinely co-develop and deploy solutions in Louisiana's industrial testbeds, making the state a preferred market for energy-focused investment, mergers, and acquisitions.

ESTABLISH LOUISIANA AS THE NATION'S INDUSTRIAL POWER LEADER

Align energy planning, grid investments, and regulatory coordination with the needs of global companies evaluating and expanding in Louisiana.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Reliable and competitively priced power is one of the most important factors shaping modern industrial investment. Louisiana is seeing significant load growth driven by data centers, LNG expansion, and industrial investments across various sectors, including automation- and AI-intensive operations. Companies need long-term clarity on power availability and cost trajectories, while regulators and residents insist that new loads are planned and managed to avoid undue impacts on households and small businesses. A productive industrial power system that balances capacity with affordability will strengthen Louisiana's competitiveness and support long-term economic growth.

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERS

This priority is led through coordinated efforts between LED, C&E, the PSC, and Louisiana's electric utility partners. Increased coordination between LED and the PSC gives regulators insight into the state's project pipeline and accelerates project execution. The PSC continues to focus on protecting ratepayers and load capacity, and C&E contributes energy expertise that informs Louisiana's long-term power system strategy. Economic development partners provide local insights to support smart grid planning and industrial development.

CURRENT MOMENTUM

Entergy, the PSC, and LED set a new statewide benchmark for speed and power deployment with Meta's data center, and the PSC's Lightning Amendment creates an additional pathway to shorten review and interconnection timelines for large-load projects. C&E is consolidating power generation strategies, enhancing energy security, and supporting new federal opportunities through the DRIVE Initiative. Utilities continue to invest in generation, transmission, and substation capacity to serve growing demand while remaining focused on moderating long-term rate impacts for ratepayers and small businesses.

NEAR-TERM GOALS
(1 TO 2 YEARS)

- Pursue and secure substantial federal grant funding through C&E's Office of Energy to support grid modernization, load management, resilience improvements, and new generation technologies.
- Expand early planning pathways for high-load projects building on lessons learned from the Meta project.
- Accelerate nuclear power (baseload) generation while securing large-scale investments in nuclear-focused manufacturing and supply chains.
- Align utility resource planning with statewide industrial growth patterns identified through LED's economic development strategy.
- Advance capacity investments in high-growth corridors identified in statewide planning efforts.

LONG-TERM ASPIRATION
(5 YEARS)

Louisiana is recognized as one of the most reliable, affordable, and investment-ready industrial power environments in the U.S. Large projects interconnect on clear, predictable timelines. Households and small businesses benefit from stable, competitive rates that show major load growth has been achieved without undue burden on ratepayers.

PHOTO: **Construction underway at Meta's data center site in Richland Parish.**
CREDIT: **Meta**

6

Regional Opportunity Frameworks

PHOTO: **Towboats navigating the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge, illustrating the critical role of inland waterways in Louisiana's freight and energy supply chains.**

PHOTO: **Port of Vinton Certified Site in Calcasieu Parish.**

Louisiana's energy future will be built region by region, shaped by distinct assets, industries, and market dynamics across the state. The following Regional Opportunity Frameworks translate Louisiana's statewide energy vision and priorities into practical, region-specific opportunities, highlighting how each region's infrastructure, workforce, natural resources, and institutions align with current market demand and long-term growth trends. These frameworks are designed to support prospective investors, regional partners, and local stakeholders by clarifying where different types of energy, industrial, and innovation-driven projects are best positioned to succeed, while reinforcing how regional strengths collectively advance Louisiana's broader energy and economic development goals.

ACADIANA

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The nine-parish Acadiana Region is known for its strong cultural identity, skilled workforce, and a diverse economic base that spans energy, technology, manufacturing, agriculture, and logistics. Located between Houston and New Orleans along the I-10 and I-49 corridors, with Class I rail, regional airports, and four coastal ports connecting to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Acadiana serves as a key hub for Gulf Coast industrial and energy activity.

Lafayette and surrounding parishes remain major centers for offshore energy services, marine fabrication, and oilfield technology, with growing strengths in software, telecommunications, digital media, and advanced manufacturing. First Solar's $1.1 billion AI-enabled plant in Iberia Parish confirms the region's ability to support large, technology-intensive projects.

ONEACADIANA

oneacadiana.org

REGION AT-A-GLANCE

A **KEY HUB** for Gulf Coast industrial and energy activity

A **NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED NATURAL GAS CORRIDOR** tied into the Henry Hub

ROBUST ENERGY WORKFORCE anchored by offshore services, fabrication, and advanced manufacturing

FIRST SOLAR'S $1.1 BILLION AI-ENABLED FACILITY reinforces Acadiana's energy manufacturing and innovation capacity

Strategic access along I-10 with **DIRECT ACCESS TO GULF COAST INDUSTRIAL CORRIDORS**

ACADIANA PARISHES

Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermilion

PHOTO: **First Solar in Iberia Parish.**

PHOTO: **Dr. Terrence Chambers at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Solar Energy Lab, advancing applied research in solar energy technologies.**

ENERGY ASSET INVENTORY

Natural Resources

- Strong natural gas availability, supported by pipelines that tie directly into Henry Hub and statewide LNG and industrial corridors.
- Access to the Gulf of America and inland waterways supporting energy services, offshore support activities, and maritime operations.
- Strong agricultural base, including sugarcane, rice, aquaculture, and forestry residues, can supply biofuels, renewable diesel, advanced aviation fuels, combined heat and power, and pellet or specialty chemical production.
- Proximity to regional geologic storage formations supporting long-term carbon management activities.

Energy Infrastructure and Logistics Network

- A portfolio of more than 25 LED Certified Sites, including large tracts such as the Freeland Site in Acadia Parish and the Acadiana Regional Airport P4 site in Iberia Parish, with utilities in place along interstate, rail, and port corridors connected to statewide pipeline, hydrogen, and export infrastructure.
- Concentration of offshore service, fabrication, and advanced manufacturing firms serving Gulf of America operators.
- A nationally recognized natural gas corridor tied into the Henry Hub with extensive gathering and transmission pipelines that supply transmission systems for high-load industrial and manufacturing users.
- I-10, I-49, and US 90 corridors linking Houston, Acadiana, and New Orleans and moving heavy freight and project cargo.
- Access to key ports, including the Port of Morgan City, Port of Iberia, and Port of Vermilion, supported by Lafayette Regional Airport and Class I rail service.
- The Port of Iberia's Acadiana Gulf of Mexico Access Channel (AGMAC) deepening and new industrial investment such as Cajun Industries' fabrication yard are expanding the region's ability to support module assembly, marine services, and project cargo.

Talent Pipeline and Workforce Strengths

- UL Lafayette, an R1 institution, and South Louisiana Community College, along with specialized training centers, supply engineers, computer scientists, and technicians with skills in energy, digital systems, coastal studies, process technology, welding, machining, offshore work, and industrial trades.
- Deep energy and industrial workforce experience in offshore services, fabrication, and advanced manufacturing.
- Regional initiatives such as 55 by 25 and 1A ConnectEd building a steady pipeline of technicians, operators, and digital talent for energy and manufacturing employers.

ENERGY-FOCUSED GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Offshore Energy Services, Marine Fabrication, and Coastal Logistics

- Recruit new offshore service, subsea, decommissioning, and marine construction projects seeking co-location near existing service firms, fabrication yards, aviation infrastructure, and Gulf-facing ports to serve deepwater operations across the Gulf of America.
- Position Lafayette and coastal Acadiana as an integrated operations base for offshore logistics, maintenance, and repair for Gulf of America projects.

Natural Gas-Anchored Fuels, Process Industries, and Midstream Services

- Capitalize on the Henry Hub's national presence and pipeline connectivity to attract and expand gas-based manufacturing, petrochemicals, gas processing, and midstream services.
- Target investments in hydrogen, ammonia, and other gas-derived fuels and feedstocks to integrate with LNG, pipeline, and industrial infrastructure across Acadiana and neighboring regions.

PHOTO: **Louisiana State University's Iberia Research Station in Iberia Parish.**

Solar and Advanced Energy Manufacturing Cluster

- Build on First Solar's flagship $1.1 billion AI-enabled facility by recruiting complementary manufacturers, component suppliers, and logistics providers to deepen the domestic power equipment supply chain.

Bioenergy and Value-Added Manufacturing Tied to Regional Agriculture

- Use the region's sugarcane, rice, and biomass base to pursue investments in biofuels, renewable diesel, and advanced aviation fuels, particularly where projects can co-locate with existing industrial and port infrastructure.
- Pursue projects that add value to agricultural outputs while creating new industrial loads and rural jobs in smaller communities.

Digital, Aviation, and Industrial Technology Services

- Leverage Lafayette's telecommunications infrastructure, UL Lafayette's R1 research capacity, and regional software talent to grow a cluster focused on industrial controls, grid and plant analytics, AI, automation, and cybersecurity for energy and manufacturing companies.
- Capitalize on Lafayette's aviation maintenance cluster to grow maintenance, repair, and overhaul aviation services that support offshore and industrial operations.
- Position Acadiana as a location of choice for energy-focused regional headquarters by leveraging the region's quality of life, growing tech ecosystem, and connectivity to the state's industrial corridor and coastal energy assets.

ENERGY VALUE PROPOSITION

Where Energy, Innovation, and the Gulf Converge

- **Acadiana anchors the Gulf Coast energy corridor between Houston and New Orleans, with direct access to the Gulf of America, the Henry Hub, and a deep offshore, fabrication, and service supply chain in one region.**
- **First Solar's $1.1 billion manufacturing facility, with consistent expansions in equipment manufacturing, aviation, and oilfield services, reflects a region powered by a seasoned, skilled energy workforce.**
- **Acadiana offers project-ready sites, interstate, rail, port, and air connectivity, and a committed regional team focused on speed to market for complex energy projects.**

BAYOU

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The Bayou Region covers Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, and Assumption parishes, located south of Baton Rouge and New Orleans along Louisiana's central Gulf Coast. The region remains an oil and gas powerhouse and critical U.S. hub for offshore energy, marine services, shipbuilding, national defense, and coastal innovation.

Port Fourchon serves more than 250 companies, supports over 90% of Gulf of America deepwater energy production (Port Fourchon, 2025), and underpins roughly 15% of total U.S. oil supply. It also serves as the onshore base for the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP), the first and only deepwater oil port (LOOP, 2024), connected to approximately half of U.S. refining capacity. In Franklin, Saronic Technologies' acquisition of the Gulf Craft shipyard and $300 million expansion to build autonomous surface vessels highlight the Bayou Region's ability to power next-generation naval and commercial shipbuilding, while Argent LNG's 25 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) export terminal, set to begin deliveries by 2030, signals continued energy expansion in the Bayou Region.

The Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON), Nicholls State University, Fletcher Technical Community College, South Louisiana Community College, and the Bayou Region Incubator expand research, entrepreneurship, and workforce pipelines in maritime, energy, and coastal fields.

COLAB
FORMERLY SOUTH LOUISIANA ECONOMIC COUNCIL

bayouregion.com

REGION AT-A-GLANCE

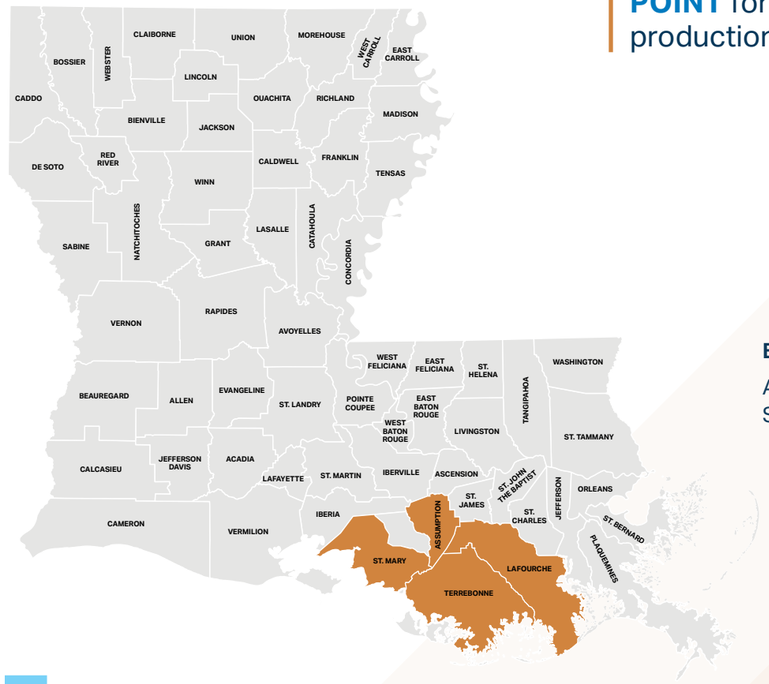
LOOP remains the nation's **FIRST** and **ONLY DEEPWATER OIL PORT**

Port Fourchon services **OVER 90% OF DEEPWATER ENERGY PRODUCTION** in the Gulf of America

A historic and growing center for **SHIPBUILDING** and **INDUSTRIAL FABRICATION**

SPECIALIZED WORKFORCE and **CONTRACTOR BASE** in offshore operations and energy-adjacent sectors

STRATEGIC ACCESS POINT for Gulf-based energy production and logistics



BAYOU PARISHES

Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, Terrebonne

PHOTO: **Port Fourchon in Lafourche Parish.**

ENERGY ASSET INVENTORY

Natural Resources

- Coastal location on the Gulf of America with bays, wetlands, and estuaries that support offshore activity, marine industries, and fisheries.
- Extensive waterways, including Bayou Lafourche and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, that support vessel movements, dredging, and coastal projects.
- Sugarcane, seafood, and related agricultural and marine products that support food processing, industrial supply, and export activity, with byproducts that can serve as feedstock for biofuels, renewable diesel, and other bioenergy projects.

Energy Infrastructure and Logistics Network

- High concentration of offshore service bases, shipyards, fabrication yards, and marine construction firms serving Gulf of America operators, decommissioning work, and coastal projects.
- Port Fourchon provides large-scale offshore support as the land base for LOOP, with high vessel, passenger, and truck volumes tied to Gulf deepwater production.
- LOOP and the Clovelly Salt Dome offer deepwater offloading for VLCC and ULCC vessels and underground crude storage connected to roughly half of U.S. refining capacity.
- Ports of Terrebonne, Morgan City, and West St. Mary add cargo, fabrication, and industrial sites for energy, logistics, and marine projects.
- Natural gas and electric systems built around coastal industry and fabrication yards with capacity for additional industrial loads.
- Highway corridors such as LA 1 and US 90 move offshore cargo, project loads, and industrial traffic between ports, fabrication sites, and interstate networks.
- Six LED Certified Sites totaling roughly 1,400 acres, including the Rebecca Development Park North and South sites in Terrebonne Parish, provide large, infrastructure-ready locations near port, highway, and pipeline corridors for energy, logistics, and manufacturing users. Additionally, COLAB recently executed an MOU to proceed with the certification of two additional sites in the Bayou Region.

PHOTO: **Saronic Technologies' Franklin Shipyard, part of a $300 million expansion in St. Mary Parish.**

Talent Pipeline and Workforce Strengths

- Nicholls State University, Fletcher Technical Community College, and South Louisiana Community College provide maritime, welding, industrial trades, offshore operations, nursing, and business programs for regional employers.
- LUMCON, the Nicholls Coastal Research Center, the Coastal Technical Assistance Center (CTAC), and regional training providers build expertise in coastal restoration, marine construction, and environmental and water management work, with CTAC-supported firms securing more than $800 million in coastal contracts since the center's inception in 2022 (CTAC, 2025).
- Specialized workforce with deep experience in offshore operations, shipbuilding, fabrication, crane work, logistics, and marine safety, supported by ongoing upskilling efforts and industry partnerships.

ENERGY-FOCUSED GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Defense Shipbuilding and Offshore Energy Services

- Expand the Bayou Region's role in defense shipbuilding and autonomous vessel manufacturing, leveraging regional shipyards and recent private investment.
- Recruit additional offshore service, subsea, decommissioning, and marine construction projects in need of Port Fourchon's deepwater access, vessel volumes, and passenger flows.
- Promote Houma, Thibodaux, and coastal service bases as the primary operations, maintenance, and turnaround hub for Gulf of America offshore assets, including brownfield and greenfield port-adjacent sites.

LNG, Storage, and Energy Logistics

- Advance Argent LNG and pursue additional LNG, storage, and midstream projects using LOOP, Clovelly storage caverns, and Port Fourchon infrastructure for large-scale liquids handling, bunkering, and export.
- Market the Bayou Region as a fully integrated crude, liquids, and LNG platform for companies seeking deepwater offloading, cavern storage, and pipeline reach into major U.S. refining centers.

Emerging Energy Technologies

- Use Gulf Wind Technology's development at Port Fourchon to recruit firms in offshore wind services, marine robotics, offshore inspection, and monitoring systems that require real-world testing and local fabrication capacity.
- Connect LUMCON, the Bayou Region Incubator, and FUEL partners with industry to support pilots, demonstrations, and commercialization in offshore and coastal technologies.
- Recruit biofuels, renewable diesel, and related industrial projects that use sugarcane bagasse and agricultural byproducts co-locating near ports, processing facilities, and export corridors.
- Promote the Bayou Region as a coastal bioenergy and value-added processing hub for companies needing feedstock access, export routes, and an experienced industrial construction and maintenance workforce.

ENERGY VALUE PROPOSITION

Louisiana's Coastal Engine for Energy, Logistics, and the Future of Shipbuilding

- **Through Port Fourchon, the Bayou Region supports over 90% of Gulf of America deepwater energy production, and underpins roughly 15% of total U.S. oil supply.**
- **Additional ports and inland waterways provide an integrated coastal platform for offshore energy, LNG, crude handling, bioenergy, and marine logistics across the Gulf of America.**
- **A robust and specialized maritime and industrial workforce powers offshore operations, coastal projects, and next-generation shipbuilding.**
- **The region serves as an integrated hub to design, build, and move critical products across the world.**

CAPITAL

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The nine-parish Capital Region is a critical economic driver for Louisiana, anchored by a dense concentration of refineries, chemical plants, power generation, and heavy construction activity tied to the state's energy and process industries. Recent announcements, including Hyundai Steel's $5.8 billion ultra-low-carbon steel production mill in Ascension Parish, SNT Holdings' $59 million energy and petrochemical products manufacturing facility in West Baton Rouge Parish, and ExxonMobil's $100 million isopropyl alcohol expansion in East Baton Rouge Parish, reinforce the region's ability to secure and execute cutting-edge, energy-intensive projects. These wins are backed by a deep industrial supplier base and utility partnerships that support fast, reliable delivery.

Beyond heavy industrial operations, the region anchors Louisiana's policy, corporate, and institutional leadership, supporting a broad mix of industrial and commercial growth. The Port of Greater Baton Rouge further strengthens the region's role in energy and materials exports, with established operations such as Drax's compressed wood pellet facility demonstrating how river access, bulk handling capacity, and global shipping routes can support large-scale bioenergy and fuels-related trade. Value-added agribusiness activities in rural communities are creating opportunities for sustainable fuel production, using agricultural byproducts as feedstock.

The Capital Region's concentration of nationally recognized industrial contractors elevates the region's capacity to deliver large-scale industrial projects and capture more economic impacts through in-region fabrication, construction, and professional services. With a workforce of more than 415,000 people, supported by LSU, Southern University (SU), Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC), River Parishes Community College (RPCC), the Associated Builders and Contractors Pelican Chapter, and other technical training partners, the region maintains a strong pipeline of engineers, operators, construction managers, and technicians who design, build, and operate energy and process facilities across the region.

GREATER BATON ROUGE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

greaterbatonrouge.org

REGION AT-A-GLANCE

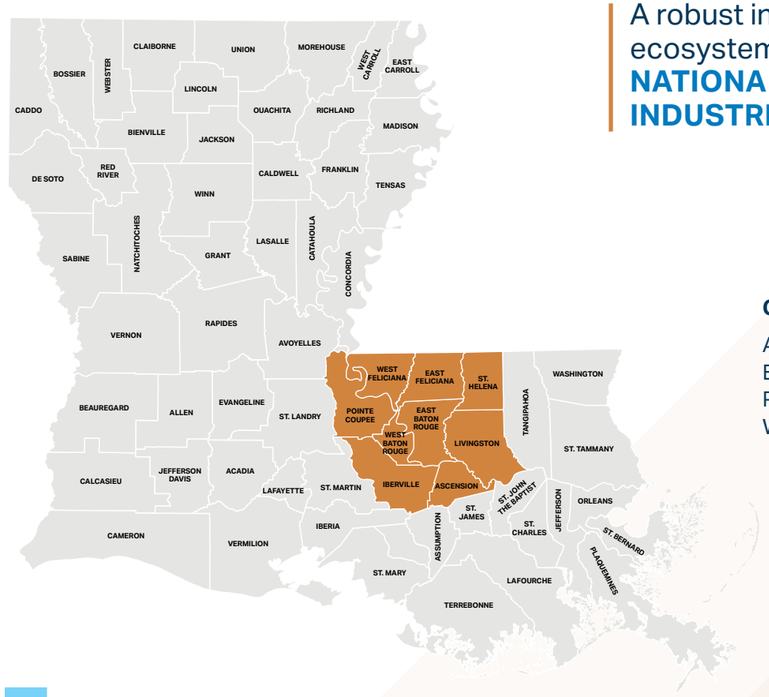
The **GLOBALLY SIGNIFICANT MISSISSIPPI RIVER CORRIDOR** supports process industries and energy-adjacent sectors

520,000+ BARRELS A DAY of crude oil capacity at ExxonMobil's Baton Rouge refinery

A **GROWING TECH** and **CYBERSECURITY ECOSYSTEM** creates energy-adjacent growth opportunities

DEEPWATER ACCESS at the **PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE** and interconnected industrial infrastructure

A robust industrial ecosystem with **NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED INDUSTRIAL CONTRACTORS**



CAPITAL PARISHES

Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana

PHOTO: **Port of Greater Baton Rouge in East Baton Rouge Parish.**

ENERGY ASSET INVENTORY

Natural Resources

- The Mississippi River provides unmatched access to more than 30 interior states and global markets through the Gulf of America, supporting large-scale energy production, storage, and export activity.
- Low-cost, abundant natural gas supports power generation, refining, chemical manufacturing, hydrogen, and ammonia production.
- Access to geologic formations supports long-term carbon storage opportunities and strengthens the region's position for low-carbon exports.
- Agricultural activity across the region provides additional feedstock potential for bioenergy and advanced fuels opportunities.

Energy Infrastructure and Logistics Network

- Concentrated chemical complexes, hydrogen and ammonia facilities, and pipeline systems along the Mississippi River support large-scale industrial operations and expansion.
- More than 20 LED Certified Sites give investors multiple options with abundant power, water, dock, rail, and pipeline access near existing facilities and suppliers.
- Port of Greater Baton Rouge and proximity to the Port of South Louisiana provide deepwater access, barge capacity, and tank storage for fuels, feedstocks, and bulk liquids moving to global markets.
- Entergy's River Bend Station nuclear facility in West Feliciana Parish remains a strategic nuclear asset, with planned site work that would clear the way to expand the 967 megawatt (MW) plant by 40 MW.
- Interstates I-10, I-12, and I-110, together with three Class I railroads, move feedstocks, construction materials, and finished products across the Gulf and Southeast.
- High-voltage electric systems serve large industrial loads, including Entergy's planned 500 kilovolt loop to strengthen resilience between Ascension and Jefferson parishes.
- A growing technology and cyber ecosystem in the Baton Rouge area supports industrial operators with operational technology security, industrial data analytics, secure networking, and digital modernization for plants, pipelines, and power assets.

Talent Pipeline and Workforce Strengths

- LSU strengthens the Capital Region's pipeline for energy and industrial employers through large-scale engineering, science, and business programs, with SU expanding the region's talent base through STEM and applied sciences education, teacher and workforce preparation, and broad access to career pathways that feed industry demand.
- LSU's partnership with Idaho National Laboratory expands the region's advanced energy research and workforce development capacity, positioning Baton Rouge as a stronger platform for nuclear-related innovation, talent development, and industry collaboration.
- RPCC, BRCC, and other technical training partners offer process technology, instrumentation, welding, electrical, and construction trades aligned with energy sector needs.
- Specialized training and research assets, including LSU's Petroleum Engineering Research, Training, & Testing (PERTT) Lab and energy-focused centers, support pipeline operations, safety, and industrial innovation.
- The NSF-funded FUEL Engine strengthens applied research and industry partnerships in advanced fuels, digital industrial technologies, and workforce development tied to Louisiana's industrial economy.
- Regional universities and training partners also strengthen talent pipelines in IT, cybersecurity, and data center operations, supporting safe and reliable performance for increasingly digital, power-intensive industrial facilities.
- A deep pool of chemical operators, engineers, construction workers, and maintenance technicians brings extensive experience in refining, petrochemicals, hydrogen, and industrial project delivery.

ENERGY-FOCUSED GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Process Industries, Biofuels, and Advanced Materials

- Continue to strengthen the region's position in refining, chemicals, hydrogen, ammonia, and advanced materials by building on river-corridor assets, integrated pipelines, and industrial talent.
- Target specialty chemicals and downstream manufacturing investments that convert regional feedstocks into higher-value products for domestic and export markets.
- Position the region's carbon-intensive industrial portfolio as an opportunity to expand carbon management activities, leveraging Class VI permitting applications, pipeline networks, and saline formations.
- Evaluate and pursue bioenergy investments tied to agricultural byproducts across the region.

Steel Production, Nuclear Components Manufacturing, and Energy-Intensive Projects

- Build on Hyundai Steel's $5.8 billion investment to grow a broader metals, steel, nuclear components, and energy-intensive manufacturing ecosystem.
- Pursue complementary Asian suppliers that support Hyundai's steel and automotive value chain and expand the region's global investment pipeline.
- Promote the region's construction, engineering, and megaproject delivery capacity as a differentiator for companies requiring fast timelines and deep local expertise.

Hydrogen, Ammonia, and Nuclear Development

- Evaluate the development of a regional hydrogen corridor by working with industrial partners to identify potential zones for hydrogen production, distribution, and refueling that connect river terminals, logistics hubs, and major manufacturing sites.
- Target hydrogen, ammonia, and nuclear prospects that can co-locate near existing process industry facilities, use shared infrastructure, and access river and port logistics.

Energy-Adjacent Technology, Cybersecurity, and Emerging Industries

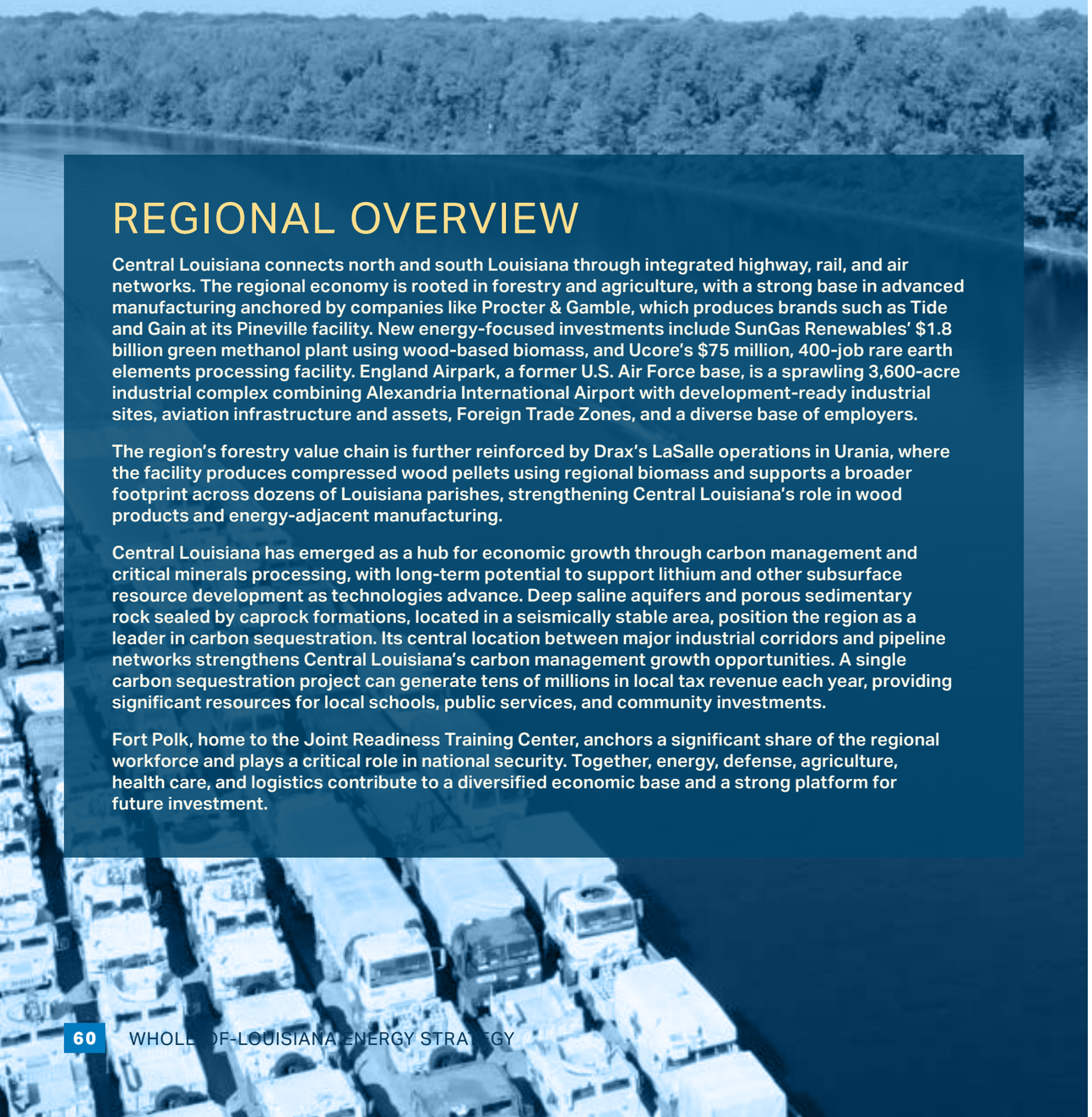
- Position the region as a hub for industrial cyber and technology services that support modernization across refineries, chemical plants, utilities, and other critical infrastructure operators.
- Build on the region's fiber and digital infrastructure, paired with utility-scale industrial power, to attract tech-enabled companies that optimize energy systems, industrial controls, and grid resilience capabilities.
- Facilitate workforce development and research collaboration tied to emerging fields such as AI, cybersecurity, industrial IoT, and critical digital infrastructure that serve hyperscale data centers, industrial automation, and energy systems.
- Establish Scale Louisiana as the region's physical commercialization platform, supporting startups emerging from carbon management research with purpose-built space to move energy-adjacent technologies from lab to market.

ENERGY VALUE PROPOSITION

A Proven Energy and Process Industry Corridor, Strengthened by Technology and Workforce Capabilities

- **The Capital Region concentrates refineries, chemical plants, hydrogen and ammonia facilities, steel production, and power generation along the Mississippi River, with port, rail, pipeline, and megasite assets in one integrated industrial corridor.**
- **A growing mix of carbon management, hydrogen, bioenergy, and advanced fuels opportunities gives investors practical pathways to stay competitive in global markets while building on the region's core industrial strengths.**
- **Nationally recognized industrial contractors, an experienced workforce, and expanding energy-adjacent technology and cybersecurity capabilities reduce execution risk and quickly advance projects from site selection to full operations.**

CENTRAL



REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Central Louisiana connects north and south Louisiana through integrated highway, rail, and air networks. The regional economy is rooted in forestry and agriculture, with a strong base in advanced manufacturing anchored by companies like Procter & Gamble, which produces brands such as Tide and Gain at its Pineville facility. New energy-focused investments include SunGas Renewables' $1.8 billion green methanol plant using wood-based biomass, and Ucore's $75 million, 400-job rare earth elements processing facility. England Airpark, a former U.S. Air Force base, is a sprawling 3,600-acre industrial complex combining Alexandria International Airport with development-ready industrial sites, aviation infrastructure and assets, Foreign Trade Zones, and a diverse base of employers.

The region's forestry value chain is further reinforced by Drax's LaSalle operations in Urania, where the facility produces compressed wood pellets using regional biomass and supports a broader footprint across dozens of Louisiana parishes, strengthening Central Louisiana's role in wood products and energy-adjacent manufacturing.

Central Louisiana has emerged as a hub for economic growth through carbon management and critical minerals processing, with long-term potential to support lithium and other subsurface resource development as technologies advance. Deep saline aquifers and porous sedimentary rock sealed by caprock formations, located in a seismically stable area, position the region as a leader in carbon sequestration. Its central location between major industrial corridors and pipeline networks strengthens Central Louisiana's carbon management growth opportunities. A single carbon sequestration project can generate tens of millions in local tax revenue each year, providing significant resources for local schools, public services, and community investments.

Fort Polk, home to the Joint Readiness Training Center, anchors a significant share of the regional workforce and plays a critical role in national security. Together, energy, defense, agriculture, health care, and logistics contribute to a diversified economic base and a strong platform for future investment.

LOUISIANA CENTRAL

louisiana-central.com

REGION AT-A-GLANCE

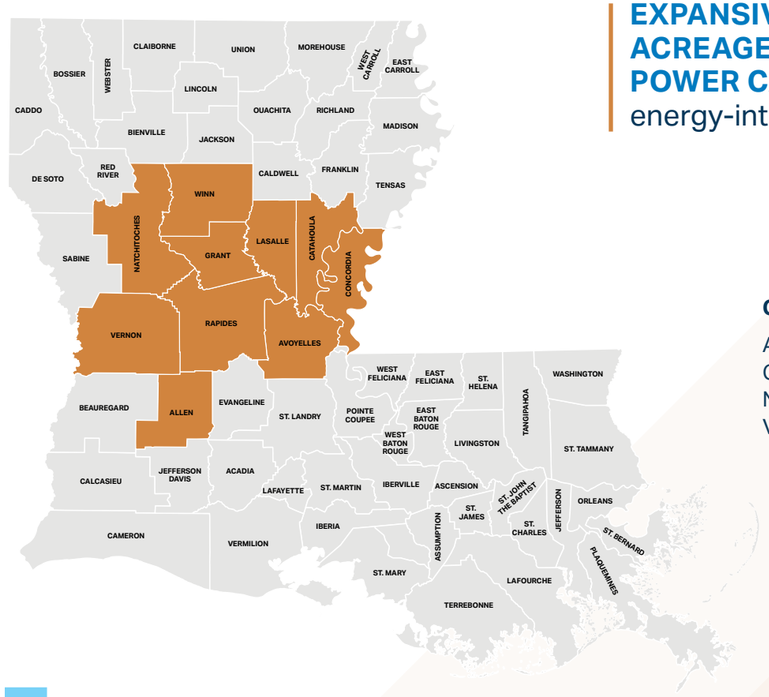
Shovel-ready sites, multimodal logistics, and FTZ availability at **ENGLAND AIRPARK'S 3,600-ACRE INDUSTRIAL CAMPUS**

SIGNIFICANT CARBON STORAGE CAPACITY, strategically located between major industrial corridors

EXTENSIVE TIMBER and **AGRICULTURE RESOURCES** fueling bioenergy momentum

A **BUDDING NATIONAL SECURITY** and **DEFENSE OPERATIONS HUB** anchored by Fort Polk and Ucore's rare earth processing facility

EXPANSIVE INDUSTRIAL ACREAGE and **POWER CAPACITY** for energy-intensive operations



EXPANSIVE INDUSTRIAL ACREAGE and **POWER CAPACITY** for energy-intensive operations

CENTRAL PARISHES

Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon, Winn

PHOTO: **Central Louisiana Regional Port in Rapides Parish.**

ENERGY ASSET INVENTORY

Natural Resources

- Strong timber and forestry base supports biomass, bioenergy, and wood-based fuels.
- River and inland water resources, along with deep saline aquifers and porous sedimentary rock sealed by caprock formations, support industrial water supply and long-term carbon storage potential.
- Cost-competitive natural gas access, supported by Louisiana's statewide production and pipeline network, gives Central Louisiana reliable fuel for industrial heat, power generation, and advanced manufacturing.
- Regionally available aggregates (sand and gravel) support construction and site development for industrial projects, grid upgrades, and large-scale infrastructure.

Energy Infrastructure and Logistics Network

- Alexandria International Airport, England Airpark, regional rail lines, interconnected interstates and highways, and the Central Louisiana Regional Port provide an integrated ground, air, rail, and barge network for industrial inputs, forestry products, and project cargo.
- 13 LED Certified Sites totaling roughly 3,300 acres, including large industrial tracts at England Airpark, provide ready-to-build locations for logistics, manufacturing, and energy-adjacent projects seeking central access to Louisiana's major corridors.
- Wood processing, paper mills, and biomass facilities produce lumber, panel products, pulp, and energy-linked wood products.
- Electric power generation, industrial water and wastewater capacity, and natural gas pipeline access support large industrial loads, advanced manufacturing, and potential low-carbon fuel projects.
- The region is served by electric utility partners including CLECO and Entergy Louisiana, supporting industrial loads, advanced manufacturing operations, and site expansion needs across multiple parishes.
- The 259th Air Traffic Control Squadron (Louisiana Air National Guard) operates the control tower at England Airpark, providing 24/7 air traffic services that support aviation operations, logistics, and mission-critical infrastructure valued by advanced manufacturers and defense companies.

Talent Pipeline and Workforce Strengths

- Louisiana State University of Alexandria and Northwestern State University provide programs in STEM, agriculture, health care, business, and management, with Central Louisiana Technical Community College and SOWELA Technical Community College's Leesville Campus providing training in industrial operations, aviation, manufacturing, and utilities.
- A workforce rooted in forestry, manufacturing, and military service supports energy, industrial, health care, and logistics activity across the region.

PHOTO: **England Airpark in Rapides Parish, highlighting the region's aviation, logistics, and industrial infrastructure.**

ENERGY-FOCUSED GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Bioenergy, Green Methanol, and Timber-Based Fuels

- Leverage Central Louisiana's timber and wood products base to attract bioenergy and green fuels projects, building on SunGas Renewables' green methanol investment in Pineville and Drax's Central Louisiana operations.
- Connect existing mill operators with bioenergy and carbon management developers, positioning operating mill sites as prime locations for deployment and co-location.

Defense, Nuclear, and Energy-Adjacent Manufacturing

- Use Ucore's rare earth processing investment to anchor defense-aligned and energy-adjacent manufacturing, including drone, AI, and autonomous supply chains that benefit from secure access to specialized materials, while leveraging Fort Polk's pipeline of experienced logistics, maintenance, and technical talent.
- Recruit defense contractors, equipment manufacturers, and logistics operators that need runway access, rail and interstate connectivity, and certified industrial sites to move critical components and project cargo efficiently.
- Leverage streamlined permitting capabilities at Fort Polk to pursue nuclear power opportunities and strengthen regional load growth.
- Position England Airpark as a secure platform for drone manufacturers, with controlled airspace, 24/7 tower operations, and a Foreign Trade Zone that reduces scale-up risk, protects sensitive operations, and accelerates speed to market.

PHOTO: **Lumber products at Hunt Forest Products, part of the Tolko Industries partnership, at the Urania facility in Louisiana's Central Region.**

Carbon Management and Industrial Competitiveness

- Position Central Louisiana's geology, pipeline access, and carbon storage potential as a long-term opportunity for industrial partners competing in international markets with stricter carbon requirements.
- Support clear, fact-based communication on carbon management that focuses on safety, landowner interests, jobs, and local revenue.

Sites, Readiness, and Rural Industrial Growth

- Advance site preparation in rural parishes where timber, agriculture, and existing transmission and pipeline infrastructure can support new industrial and emerging energy investments.
- With anticipated natural gas pipeline expansion from the Haynesville Shale to Southwest Louisiana LNG facilities, proactively coordinate with key stakeholders to facilitate this process and secure the revenue generation opportunity for Central Louisiana.

ENERGY VALUE PROPOSITION

Where Geology, Timber, and Logistics are Fueling the Future of Energy Investment

- **Central Louisiana combines timber, agricultural, and geologic advantages, with a growing presence of sustainable fuels, rare earth materials, and carbon management projects in one centrally located region.**
- **Certified industrial sites at England Airpark and across the region link air, highway, rail, and river assets, giving energy and manufacturing projects flexible logistics options for supply and distribution.**
- **A workforce grounded in forestry, manufacturing, and military service has the skills to design, build, and operate the next generation of energy and industrial projects.**

NORTHEAST

GROW NELA

grownela.com

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Northeast Louisiana is strategically located along the Mississippi River and I-20 corridor, connecting Dallas-Fort Worth, Shreveport, Jackson, and Atlanta while serving major agriculture, timber, manufacturing, and logistics markets. The region offers abundant investment-ready sites, low-cost and readily available power, and a skilled workforce that support energy-intensive growth.

The region has gained global attention since Meta announced it will build a $27 billion AI-optimized data center in Richland Parish. The four million-square-foot campus will be the largest data center in the Western Hemisphere, creating at least 500 direct jobs, more than 1,000 indirect jobs, and employing roughly 5,000 workers at peak construction. In partnership with Meta, Entergy Louisiana has secured regulatory approval for approximately $3.2 billion in new transmission, generation, and reliability investments to support the project, including new solar resources and grid upgrades that strengthen service for the broader region. Together, these efforts show the Northeast Region and the state's Whole-of-Louisiana approach can deliver large-scale power capacity, investment-ready megasites, and reliable energy infrastructure on an accelerated timeline for globally recognized companies.

Northeast Louisiana's broader economy continues to build on core strengths in agriculture, timber, food processing, wood products, and logistics along I-20 and the river system. Drax Biomass, headquartered in Monroe and employing nearly 200 Louisiana residents, is changing the way electricity is generated, supplied, and used from Northeast Louisiana. Institutions such as the University of Louisiana Monroe and Louisiana Delta Community College supply talent for manufacturing, logistics, agriculture, health care, and a growing base of technology and data center operations, supported by regional workforce partnerships.

REGION AT-A-GLANCE

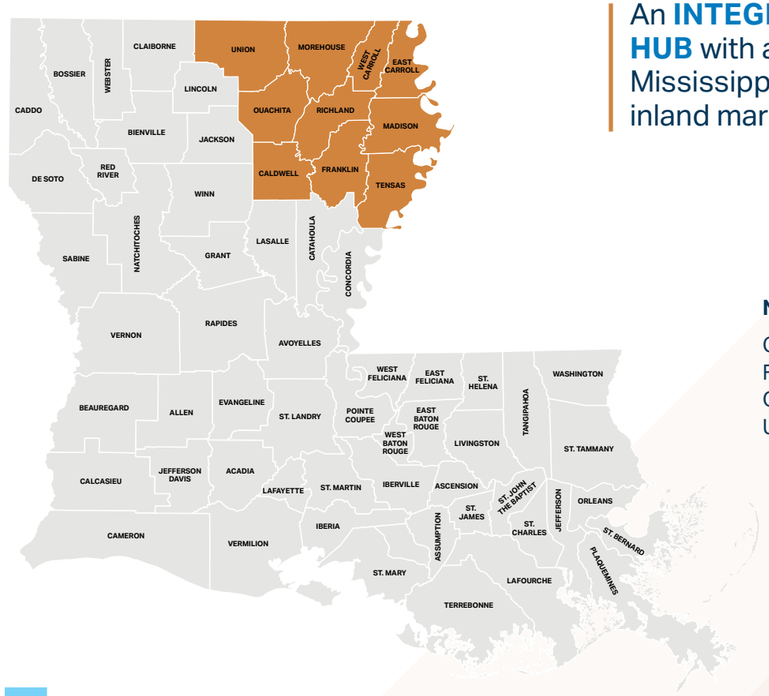
Home to **META'S $27 BILLION DATA CENTER** supporting 1,500+ new jobs

MAJOR POWER and **GRID UPGRADES** underway to support load growth and reliability

EXPANSIVE LAND AVAILABILITY and **INVESTMENT-READY SITES** for development and expansion

EXTENSIVE TIMBER and **AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES** supporting bioenergy and strategic fuels

An **INTEGRATED LOGISTICS HUB** with access to the Mississippi River and strategic inland markets



NORTHEAST PARISHES

Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, Union, West Carroll

PHOTO: **Drax Morehouse BioEnergy Facility in Morehouse Parish.**

PHOTO: **Rendering of Meta's $27 billion AI-enabled data center in Richland Parish.**

ENERGY ASSET INVENTORY

Natural Resources

- Strong timber and forestry base supports biomass, wood products, and potential bioenergy projects.
- Significant row crop production in soybeans, corn, cotton, and other commodities provides feedstocks for biofuels, bioproducts, and renewable chemicals.
- The Mississippi River, Ouachita River, and connected regional ports and waterways provide industrial water supply and barge access for energy, agricultural, and bulk shipments.
- Emerging lithium potential in Smackover Formation brines creates a future opportunity for lithium production and related processing investment as the market matures.
- Localized geothermal gradients in parishes such as Morehouse and Union present long-term potential for geothermal power as technology and project economics continue to advance.

Energy Infrastructure and Logistics Network

- Entergy Louisiana's investments include new natural gas generation, transmission upgrades, and Meta-backed solar projects, adding more than 385 MW of new solar capacity and strengthening long-term power availability for Richland Parish and the broader Northeast Region.
- Nearly 20 LED Certified Sites totaling roughly 5,000 acres, with ample land for continued development, provide scalable options for future manufacturing, logistics, and data-related projects.
- The I-20 corridor, Class I rail, strategically located ports, the Mississippi River system, and Monroe Regional Airport support freight, cargo, and passenger movement, giving energy and industrial users multiple transport options.
- Natural gas pipelines and municipal water systems support existing manufacturing and can be scaled to serve new industrial and energy projects along I-20 and the river.
- Wood processing, paper, and agri-processing facilities support lumber, panel products, pulp, and food manufacturing linked to regional and export markets.

Talent Pipeline and Workforce Strengths

- The University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM) prepares graduates for careers in the region's key sectors, including construction, health care, and technology. ULM's School of Construction Management was the first institution in the U.S. accredited by the American Council for Construction Education and serves as a critical talent pipeline for large-scale construction projects, such as Meta's data center.
- Louisiana Delta Community College and regional technical programs train workers in industrial maintenance, process technology, construction, and skilled trades, with an emphasis on flexible, employer-driven training models.
- A workforce experienced in manufacturing, logistics, agriculture, and construction creates a base for upskilling into energy, infrastructure, and AI-enabled data center operations as new projects come online.

ENERGY-FOCUSED GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Data Centers, Digital Infrastructure, and Grid Investment

- Use Meta's AI-optimized data center as a proof point when recruiting additional data centers, cloud providers, and digital infrastructure projects that require large-scale, reliable power and room to expand.
- Leverage the Meta project as a platform to attract additional data center and digital infrastructure investments that expand long-term opportunities for local and regional contractors, engineers, vendors, and service providers.

Bioenergy and Sustainable Fuels

- Promote Northeast Louisiana's agricultural and timber base as a platform for biofuels, renewable diesel, pellets, and other bio-based fuels and chemicals that value proximity to feedstock and interstate or river logistics.
- Highlight industrial sites near grain handling, storage, processing assets, and mills as prime locations for bioenergy projects that can co-locate with existing operations and serve both transportation fuels and industrial customers.

Lithium, Geothermal, and Subsurface Energy Opportunities

- Position the Smackover Formation as a longer-term diversification and growth pathway for Northeast Louisiana, supported by growing company interest and Louisiana's statewide subsurface expertise.
- Evaluate and pursue targeted geothermal opportunities in higher-gradient areas by supporting feasibility work and pilot partnerships as project economics and technologies continue.

I-20 and River-Oriented Industrial and Logistics Projects

- Market large I-20 and river-adjacent sites for manufacturing, distribution, and cold chain projects that benefit from strong utilities, highway access, and proximity to major consumer and industrial markets.
- Target energy-reliant manufacturers, logistics firms, and suppliers that complement Meta and existing industrial employers.

PHOTO: **Gov. Jeff Landry announcing Meta's data center investment in Richland Parish.**

ENERGY VALUE PROPOSITION

Big Power, Investment-Ready Sites, and Room to Grow

- **Meta's $27 billion AI-optimized data center confirms that Northeast Louisiana can deliver large-scale power, a fully prepared megasite, and coordinated state and regional support for global investors.**
- **A combination of abundant land, strong agriculture and subsurface resources, and multimodal logistics along I-20 and the Mississippi River gives energy, manufacturing, and digital projects room to grow.**
- **ULM, Louisiana Delta Community College, and regional training partners bolster an adaptable workforce supporting data centers, industrial facilities, and next-generation projects as the region scales up.**

NORTHWEST

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Northwest Louisiana anchors a tri-state market across Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas, with immediate access to I-20 and I-49. Rail connectivity also links freight pathways from Mexico through the central U.S. to Canada, strengthening the region's reach into major energy, industrial, and consumer markets. Recent private-sector announcements, including SLB's expansion in Shreveport to support global digital infrastructure and data center growth, reinforce the region's role as an operating base for energy-adjacent industrial services, high-reliability power, and large-load project support.

The region's economy is fueled by substantial natural gas activity across the Haynesville Shale, one of the most productive gas fields in the country, supported by extensive pipeline systems transporting gas to Gulf Coast LNG facilities, power plants, and regional industrial users. The Port of Caddo-Bossier, a 5,000-acre inland multimodal transportation and distribution center on the Red River, connects regional manufacturers and energy suppliers to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of America by barge, rail, and highway. Northwest Louisiana is positioned to become a leading platform for next-generation nuclear development, leveraging defense assets, industrial load growth, and available sites that can support secure, reliable baseload power.

Barksdale Air Force Base (BAFB), a foundational pillar of U.S. national security and the nuclear triad, maintains mission-critical defense and infrastructure assets, while advanced manufacturing, wood products, food processing, logistics, and a growing cyber and information technology corridor around the National Cyber Research Park complement continued energy and industrial growth. Northwest Louisiana is gaining momentum in data centers, with a growing cluster of employers and suppliers expanding alongside rising large-load demand.

north louisiana economic partnership

nlep.org

REGION AT-A-GLANCE

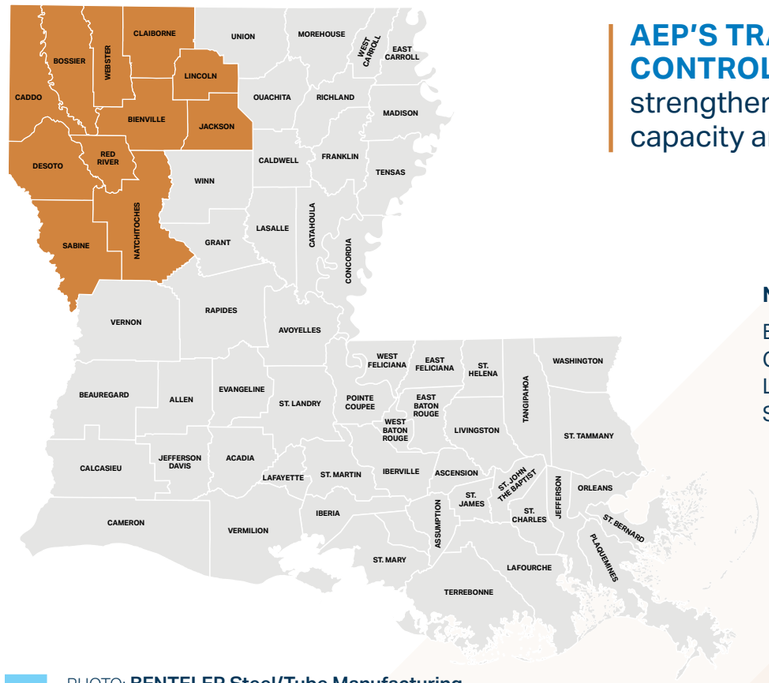
175 TRILLION CUBIC FEET OF RECOVERABLE NATURAL GAS in the Haynesville Shale

A **GROWING PIPELINE NETWORK** connects Haynesville gas to Gulf Coast LNG terminals, data center opportunities, and power plants

18,000+ MANUFACTURING WORKERS with strong specialization in mining, oil and gas, and utilities

Home to the Port of Caddo-Bossier, a **5,000-ACRE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION** and **DISTRIBUTION CENTER**

AEP'S TRANSMISSION CONTROL CENTER strengthens regional grid capacity and resilience



NORTHWEST PARISHES

Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Jackson, Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster

PHOTO: **BENTELER Steel/Tube Manufacturing Corporation at the Port of Caddo-Bossier.**

ENERGY ASSET INVENTORY

Natural Resources

- Major natural gas reserves in the Haynesville Shale support long-term production for industrial, power generation, and LNG export uses.
- A strong forestry and agribusiness base supplies inputs for wood products, biomass, and food and beverage manufacturing.
- The Red River provides a strategic inland waterway for moving bulk materials, industrial inputs, and energy-related cargo, strengthening multimodal access to manufacturing and processing sites across the region and state.
- Geothermal gradients in parts of Northwest Louisiana offer long-term potential for enhanced geothermal systems as technologies mature.
- The Smackover Formation near the region's northern border represents an emerging opportunity for lithium development, leveraging subsurface expertise and existing oil and gas capabilities.

Energy Infrastructure and Logistics Network

- Extensive natural gas production, gathering, processing, and transmission systems connect Haynesville output to regional plants, Gulf Coast LNG facilities, and national markets, with interstate connectivity supporting flows from multiple producing basins, including Canadian supply, to Gulf Coast refining and export markets.
- Nearly 20 LED Certified Sites across the region totaling roughly 3,000 acres offer competitive options for manufacturers, logistics users, data centers, and gas-intensive projects.
- High-capacity electric transmission and distribution systems serve industrial users, logistics facilities, and military installations, with regional power costs positioned below the national average.
- The Port of Caddo-Bossier combines heavy-lift docks, on-site rail, and warehousing with Foreign Trade Zone designation and barge access to the Mississippi River system, northern ports, and the Gulf of America.
- The Red River Parish Port and Natchitoches Parish Port broaden the region's portfolio for river- and rail-served energy and industrial projects.
- AEP's Shreveport Transmission Control Center strengthens regional grid operations, redundancy, and reliability for energy, industrial, and large-load customers.
- CapturePoint's proposed CO_2 transport and storage infrastructure is poised to create a direct link between Northwest Louisiana carbon management projects, including Bia Energy and Heirloom, and Central Louisiana storage opportunities.
- Rail connectivity, including the CPKC network, links companies to key Louisiana and Gulf Coast markets and provides a direct corridor to Mexico and Canada.
- Interstates I-20 and I-49 intersect near Shreveport-Bossier, and the planned I-69 corridor will cross directly through the Port of Caddo-Bossier, placing Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, New Orleans, and other southern hubs within a one-day truck haul.
- Regional water capacity and systems support industrial activity, port tenants, and future data centers and energy-related projects.
- Established telecom and fiber networks, including assets near port infrastructure and regional industrial parks, support data-intensive operations and potential hyperscale or AI-driven facilities.

Talent Pipeline and Workforce Strengths

- Manufacturing generates roughly $3.3 billion in regional GDP and employs nearly 18,000 workers, with strong specialization in mining, oil and gas, and utilities.
- More than 13,000 higher education certificates and degrees are awarded across the region each year, including significant credentials in manufacturing and transportation and logistics.
- LSU Shreveport, Louisiana Tech University, Grambling State University, Bossier Parish Community College, Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College, Northwestern State University, Louisiana Delta Community College, and regional technical colleges supply talent in business, STEM, IT, cybersecurity, and skilled trades.
- NLEP's Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) Program, STRIKEWERX, Cyber Innovation Center collaboration, and BRF's Collaboration Link strengthen automation, AI-enabled industrial systems, cybersecurity, industrial technology, and defense-aligned capabilities that complement energy, infrastructure, and data center projects.

ENERGY-FOCUSED GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Haynesville Gas, Pipelines, and Gas-Intensive Manufacturing

- Position Haynesville production as a core selling point for Louisiana LNG and Gulf Coast industrial projects by highlighting scale, deliverability, and connectivity to South Louisiana export capacity.
- Convene producers, midstream operators, utilities, and key customers to promote a clear "Haynesville-to-LNG" narrative that demonstrates jobs, investment, and tax benefits for Northwest communities while supporting statewide energy priorities.
- Advance sites near major gathering and transmission assets for gas-intensive industrial and manufacturing projects, working with LED to move the strongest locations into the Certified Sites and FastSites pipelines.
- Coordinate with LED to support DOE and FERC engagement related to pipeline, transmission, and large-load projects.

Data Centers, Digital Infrastructure, and Regional Power Capacity

- Target data centers and digital infrastructure projects in need of stable power, competitive utility costs, interstate access, and robust fiber connectivity.
- Continue to build and market a vertically integrated data center support cluster, including engineering, site development, electrical, controls, HVAC, fiber, security, and operations vendors that benefit from repeat work and long-term service demand.
- Utilize a data center ecosystem map to show where new suppliers and partners can plug into the region's value chain, and to help recruit complementary digital infrastructure investments.

Nuclear, Lithium, and Geothermal Energy Opportunities

- Pursue small modular reactor opportunities at BAFB to support mission-critical energy resilience and large-load growth, building on active planning discussions, federal interest, and expedited permitting pathways.
- Position the region's proximity to the Smackover Formation as a strategic advantage for future lithium development.
- Evaluate targeted geothermal opportunities and facilitate pilot projects as commercial viability improves.

Agriculture, Forestry, And Bioenergy

- Promote timber and wood-product assets for biomass, pellets, and wood-based fuels where projects can co-locate near existing mills, rail, or regional ports.
- Highlight rural parishes with strong forestry bases and access to port infrastructure or rail for new energy and materials investments.
- Evaluate targeted bioenergy opportunities tied to animal processing byproducts.

ENERGY VALUE PROPOSITION

Haynesville Gas, Investment-Ready Sites, and Grid Capacity are Powering Global Energy and Data Center Opportunities

- **Haynesville Shale production and an extensive pipeline network give Northwest Louisiana a long-term, scalable gas supply for Louisiana LNG exports, power generation, and industrial expansion.**
- **Investment-ready industrial sites, with the Port of Caddo-Bossier, the Red River corridor, and ample land along I-20 and I-49, provide multimodal access and opportunities for ongoing growth and expansion.**
- **Productive partnerships with electric utilities, including strengthened grid operations and reliability through AEP's Shreveport Transmission Control Center, competitive power costs, and a workforce grounded in energy, defense, and information technology position the region to host global energy investments and hyperscale data centers.**

SOUTHEAST

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Southeast Louisiana anchors the state's energy and trade economy along the Mississippi River and Gulf of America, with a world-class port system, river-based petrochemical and refining complexes, and longstanding offshore activity. Extensive pipeline networks, interstate corridors, six Class I railroads, and robust industrial power create a highly attractive environment for energy, industrial, and logistics projects.

Recent investments underscore the region's growing impact. Shell has recommitted its Gulf of America headquarters to New Orleans, reinforcing the city's ability to attract Fortune 500 headquarters operations. Newlab's innovation hub positions the region as a testing ground for energy, carbon management, and maritime technologies. The Louisiana International Terminal in St. Bernard Parish will expand container capacity and deepen the region's role in global trade and energy-related logistics. NASA Michoud Assembly Facility and the National Center for Advanced Manufacturing further strengthen the region's R&D and advanced manufacturing platform, supporting energy-adjacent production and industrial innovation.

GREATER NEW ORLEANS INC
REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

gnoinc.org

REGION AT-A-GLANCE

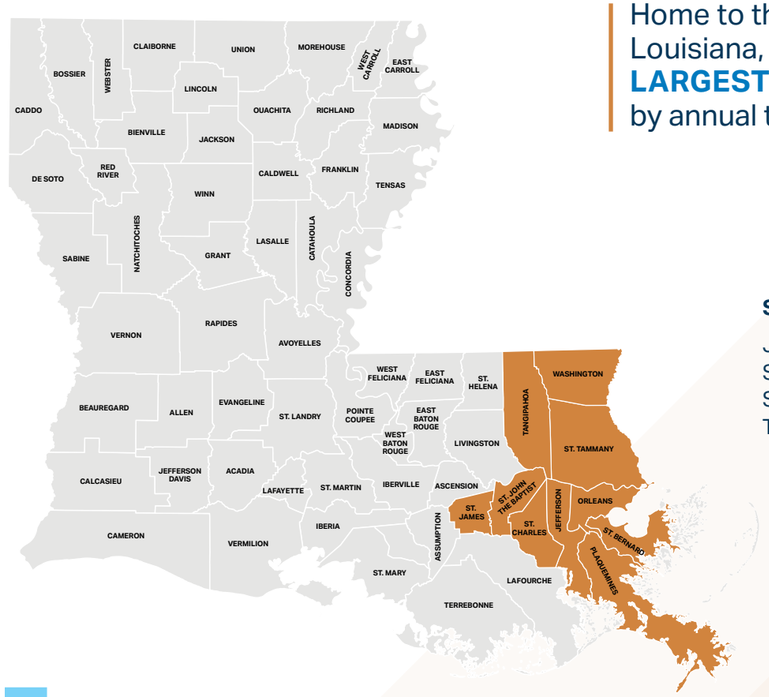
A **GLOBAL GATEWAY** for **ENERGY** and **INTERNATIONAL TRADE** anchored by the Port of New Orleans and Mississippi River

A **GROWING ENERGY** and **INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION HUB** supported by Newlab's expansion in New Orleans

Louisiana International Terminal is planned to handle **UP TO TWO MILLION CONTAINERS PER YEAR**

VENTURE GLOBAL'S $18 BILLION EXPANSION is strengthening Louisiana's global LNG presence

Home to the Port of South Louisiana, **ONE OF THE LARGEST U.S. PORTS** by annual tonnage



SOUTHEAST PARISHES

Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington

PHOTO: **Port of New Orleans in Orleans Parish.**

ENERGY ASSET INVENTORY

Natural Resources

- Mississippi River and Gulf of America access support movement of crude oil, refined products, LNG, industrial gases, and project cargo.
- Agricultural and forestry resources provide feedstock pathways for bioenergy production.
- Coastal and offshore areas provide operating bases for deepwater oil and gas activity, supported by significant oil reserves in the Gulf of America.
- Salt domes and subsurface formations create new opportunities for carbon and hydrogen storage.

Energy Infrastructure and Logistics Network

- A world-class port system, including the Port of New Orleans, Port of South Louisiana, St. Bernard Port, and Plaquemines Port, manages a significant share of U.S. bulk and breakbulk trade and connects directly to global markets.
- The Louisiana International Terminal in St. Bernard Parish will add deepwater container capacity and strengthen supply chains for energy, industrial, and equipment shippers.
- 25 LED Certified Sites totaling nearly 2,300 acres provide development-ready locations for projects across the Southeast Region.
- A dense corridor of refineries, petrochemical plants, and bulk terminals along the Mississippi River produces fuels, chemicals, industrial gases, and feedstocks for domestic and export markets.
- Extensive pipeline networks move crude oil, refined products, natural gas, and industrial gases between coastal facilities, inland plants, and national markets.
- The region houses major utility leadership and decision-making capacity, including Entergy's corporate headquarters and Delta Utilities' growing presence, which strengthen Louisiana's ability to plan and execute complex grid and industrial growth.
- Entergy's 1,100-megawatt Waterford 3 nuclear power plant in St. Charles Parish has produced safe, clean, and reliable electricity to customers for over 40 years.
- Offshore service bases, shipyards, and fabrication yards support drilling, production, maintenance, and decommissioning in the gulf.
- Six Class I railroads, multiple interstate corridors, and Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport create a robust multimodal platform.

Talent Pipeline and Workforce Strengths

- Tulane University, the University of New Orleans, Dillard University, Xavier University, Loyola University, and other institutions bolster the region's business, engineering, environmental science, and coastal research capacity and talent pipeline, while preparing future leaders for corporate headquarters and regional operations.
- Technical and community colleges, including Northshore Technical Community College, River Parishes Community College, Delgado Community College and Nunez Community College, provide process technology, instrumentation, welding, construction, marine trades, and port operations training aligned with regional skills demand.
- An experienced workforce in refining, petrochemicals, offshore services, shipbuilding, fabrication, and logistics supports complex energy and industrial operations, with transferable skills to deploy strategic fuels, carbon management, and energy-adjacent manufacturing.

ENERGY-FOCUSED GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Sustainable Fuels, Industrial Gases, and Carbon Management

- Continue positioning the Mississippi River industrial corridor as a leading hydrogen and industrial gas hub by highlighting production, pipeline networks, and proximity to refineries, chemical plants, and ports.
- Coordinate with LED and the Greater Baton Rouge Economic Partnership to understand Capital Region hydrogen needs and corridor goals, and explore joint projects with hydrogen producers, pipeline companies, and port partners to move steel and related products through Southeast Louisiana ports.
- Continue to target investments in hydrogen, ammonia, and industrial gas that serve export markets and support steel, refining, and chemical operations along the river.
- Advance bioenergy and sustainable fuels opportunities that leverage regional agricultural and forestry feedstocks, industrial utilities, and export logistics.
- Support coordinated carbon management planning to keep industrial partners competitive in international markets with carbon emission requirements.

PHOTO: **Rendering of Newlab's new energy-focused innovation hub in New Orleans, supporting collaboration, commercialization and next-generation energy technologies.**

Port-Centric Energy Trade and Global Logistics

- Continue close coordination with LED, the Louisiana Board of International Commerce, and the World Trade Center of New Orleans to align trade missions in priority international markets.
- Leverage the combined capacity of the Port of New Orleans, Port of South Louisiana, St. Bernard Port, and Louisiana Gateway Port to recruit energy-focused companies, terminal operators, processors, and equipment manufacturers that depend on bulk and container flows into global markets.
- Position the Louisiana International Terminal as a focal point for attracting containerized energy supply chain businesses, including project cargo operators and service providers that support hydrogen, industrial gases, and advanced manufacturing projects across the river corridor.

Next Generation Energy Manufacturing

- Leverage the success stories of Gulf Wind Technology, Boeing, and other regional manufacturers to position Southeast Louisiana as a production base for energy-related components manufacturing.
- Pursue energy-focused manufacturing investments tied to emerging federal and state energy priorities, such as nuclear-related equipment, advanced power systems, and maritime platforms that can move through Louisiana ports to domestic and international customers.
- Evaluate opportunities in rare earth materials processing, advanced alloys, and precision components for turbines, defense, and industrial equipment.

Energy Innovation and Startup Retention

- Connect Newlab with additional energy majors, ports, and industrial operators to embed startups on site, launch pilots, prove their concepts in real operating environments, and position Southeast Louisiana as their long-term growth base.
- Create a clear path for Newlab companies to stay and grow in the region and state by coordinating "offboarding" support that connects founders to Louisiana-based partners, sites, incentives, and capital.

ENERGY VALUE PROPOSITION

The Gulf's Global Hub for Energy, Trade, and Innovation

- **A world-class port system, extensive pipeline networks, and a dense industrial corridor connect energy producers and manufacturers to global markets.**
- **Carbon management, advanced fuels, and manufacturing assets give companies room to expand and compete internationally.**
- **Expanding hydrogen, industrial gas, and carbon management capabilities create a powerful platform for companies seeking to deploy innovative energy and industrial technologies.**
- **A skilled industrial and maritime workforce, supported by strong research and innovation partners, power next-generation companies and long-term growth from a single Gulf Coast hub.**

SOUTHWEST

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Southwest Louisiana operates as one of the nation's most critical corridors for liquefied natural gas, petrochemicals, and energy-intensive industrial production. The region concentrates multibillion-dollar projects along its industrial corridor and coast, moving fuels, materials, and manufactured components to domestic and global markets through integrated ports, ship channels, interstate highways, Class I rail, and aviation assets.

LNG export terminals operated or under construction by Cheniere, Venture Global, Cameron LNG, and Woodside Energy anchor the region's energy presence, with chemical and process manufacturers such as Sasol, Citgo, Phillips 66, Lotte, and Westlake Chemical reinforcing its value-added manufacturing platform. Recent announcements such as Aclara's heavy rare earth separation facility and Lake Charles Methanol's blue methanol project underscore the region's ability to attract and advance next-generation, energy-adjacent investors that build on existing industrial infrastructure, feedstocks, and export connectivity.

The Port of Lake Charles and Calcasieu Ship Channel have enabled much of the region's growth by providing deep-draft access and project cargo capability for major energy and manufacturing investments. Chennault International Airport strengthens this position as a comprehensive industrial campus supporting aerospace, aviation, defense, and advanced manufacturing operations, including longstanding activity by Northrop Grumman. With a 10,500-foot runway, large hangars, secure airfield access, and adjacent industrial sites, Chennault is positioned for energy-adjacent manufacturing, defense-aligned production, and high-value logistics.

McNeese State University, SOWELA Technical Community College, and regional workforce partners support this ecosystem with engineering, process technology, aviation maintenance, and industrial trades programs, backed by a longstanding industrial workforce with transferable skills that reduce ramp-up risk and support ongoing technology adoption across emerging energy and advanced manufacturing sectors.

SWLA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

allianceswla.org

REGION AT-A-GLANCE

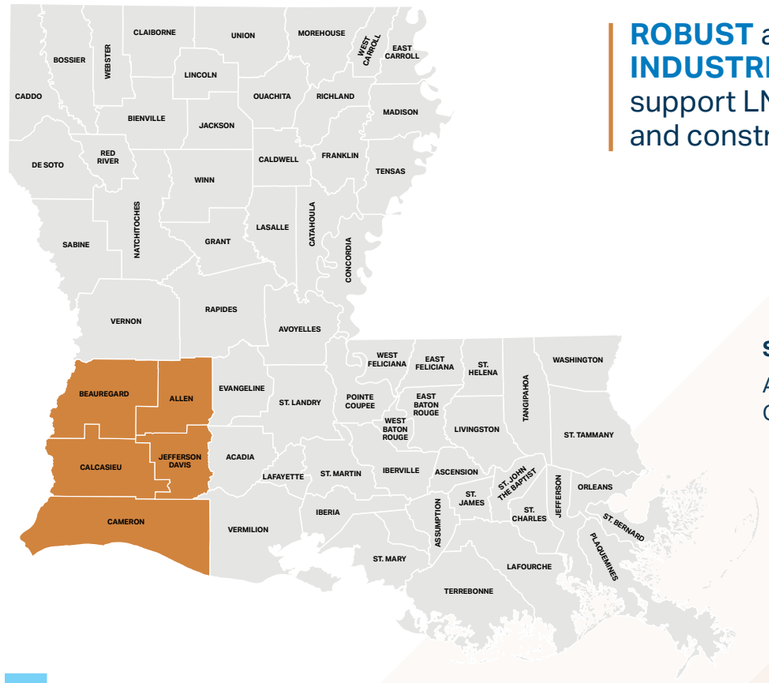
A **GLOBAL CENTER FOR LNG** production and export

ENERGY-FOCUSED INNOVATION MOMENTUM supported by Lake Charles Methanol and Aclara announcements

A **DENSE INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEM** supported by energy-adjacent manufacturing, petrochemicals, power, and logistics

INTEGRATED MULTIMODAL INFRASTRUCTURE enables large-scale projects and global access

ROBUST and **SKILLED INDUSTRIAL WORKERS** support LNG, petrochemicals, and construction growth



SOUTHWEST PARISHES

Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis

PHOTO: **Canfor Corp. in Beauregard Parish.**

ENERGY ASSET INVENTORY

Natural Resources

- Abundant natural gas resources in and around Southwest Louisiana support large LNG export terminals, petrochemical complexes, and power generation.
- A coastal location on the Gulf of America, paired with the Calcasieu Ship Channel, provides deepwater access for energy production, storage, and export.
- Extensive forests, timber, and agricultural resources produce biomass that can support bioenergy, engineered wood products, and specialty materials.
- Subsurface formations and saline aquifers provide long-term storage options for carbon management projects tied to major plants and export facilities.

Energy Infrastructure and Logistics Network

- A concentration of LNG export facilities and petrochemical plants in Calcasieu and Cameron parishes confirms the region's ability to deliver complex, capital-intensive projects.
- An established chemical and advanced materials cluster, including Sasol, Lotte, and Aclara's heavy rare earth separation facility, links Southwest Louisiana to global plastics, specialty chemicals, and critical minerals supply chains.
- The Port of Lake Charles, Cameron Parish Port, and the Calcasieu Ship Channel provide deepwater access for LNG, bulk commodities, project cargo, and energy equipment.
- Chennault International Airport functions as an industrial aviation hub with a long runway, large hangars, and MRO and aerospace operations serving commercial and defense customers, with adjacent sites available for targeted energy-focused manufacturing and logistics projects.
- Interstates I-10 and I-210, Class I rail service, and regional airports move feedstocks, finished products, and project cargo between Houston, Baton Rouge, and markets across the U.S.
- 15 LED Certified Sites totaling roughly 3,700 acres, including multiple sites with dual Class I rail lines, provide energy, petrochemical, and manufacturing projects room to grow near ports, pipelines, and highway corridors.
- High-capacity electric, natural gas, pipeline, water, and sewer infrastructure at key river, channel, and highway sites supports existing LNG and petrochemical complexes and additional large-scale process and manufacturing projects.

Talent Pipeline and Workforce Strengths

- McNeese State University supplies engineers and technical professionals through engineering, industrial technology, and energy-focused programs, including the LNG Center of Excellence.
- SOWELA Technical Community College provides process technology, instrumentation, welding, aviation maintenance, and industrial trades training aligned with regional plants, ports, and aviation employers.
- The SEED Center supports business incubation, applied training, and small business growth for the region's energy and industrial base.
- A workforce experienced in LNG operations, petrochemicals, fabrication, aviation maintenance, and logistics reduces ramp-up risk and supports reliable long-term operations.

PHOTO: **Chennault International Airport in Lake Charles, a key asset for aviation, logistics, and manufacturing growth for the state.**

ENERGY-FOCUSED GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

- Prioritize the delivery of announced LNG projects by facilitating support for permitting, community engagement, workforce, quality of life, and local contractor activities.
- Leverage the region's existing LNG footprint to recruit engineering, construction, maintenance, and maritime firms considering investments in LNG-intensive markets.
- Join LED and C&E's enhanced coordination with DOE and FERC by supporting Haynesville-to-LNG infrastructure planning and positioning Southwest Louisiana as the preferred outlet for additional export trains, storage, and energy supplies serving global markets and national security needs.

Energy-Adjacent Manufacturing

- Recruit manufacturers producing equipment, modules, components, and systems serving LNG, refining, chemicals, grid infrastructure, and energy storage.
- Leverage port capacity, fabrication strengths, and Chennault's industrial assets to support production, staging, and distribution.
- Target defense-aligned and aerospace suppliers where energy, materials, and logistics capabilities intersect.

Emerging Energy-Focused Sectors

- Advance sustainable fuels, bio-based products, and advanced feedstock processing that leverage forestry, agricultural inputs, and industrial infrastructure.
- Support carbon management projects tied to existing industrial facilities, including capture, utilization, and storage solutions to improve competitiveness and operational resilience.
- Pursue additional rare earth processing, advanced materials, and critical minerals manufacturing opportunities aligned with domestic supply priorities and national security needs.

Downstream Process Industries

- Recruit additional petrochemical, plastics, and specialty chemical investments by leveraging existing utilities, feedstocks, and export access.
- Promote packaging, blending, finishing, and secondary processing operations to convert regional outputs into higher-value products.
- Advance modernization of existing facilities through process optimization, electrification, and carbon management solutions to extend asset life and retain high-wage jobs.

Workforce, Small Business Growth, and Regional Resilience

- Support alignment between McNeese, SOWELA, and industry partners around long-term hiring needs to help local residents move into high-wage roles as new projects come online.
- Leverage local supplier capacity to ensure more of the economic impacts from industrial projects remain in Southwest Louisiana.
- Coordinate resilience, site development, and infrastructure investments to maintain operational continuity for globally connected facilities.

ENERGY VALUE PROPOSITION

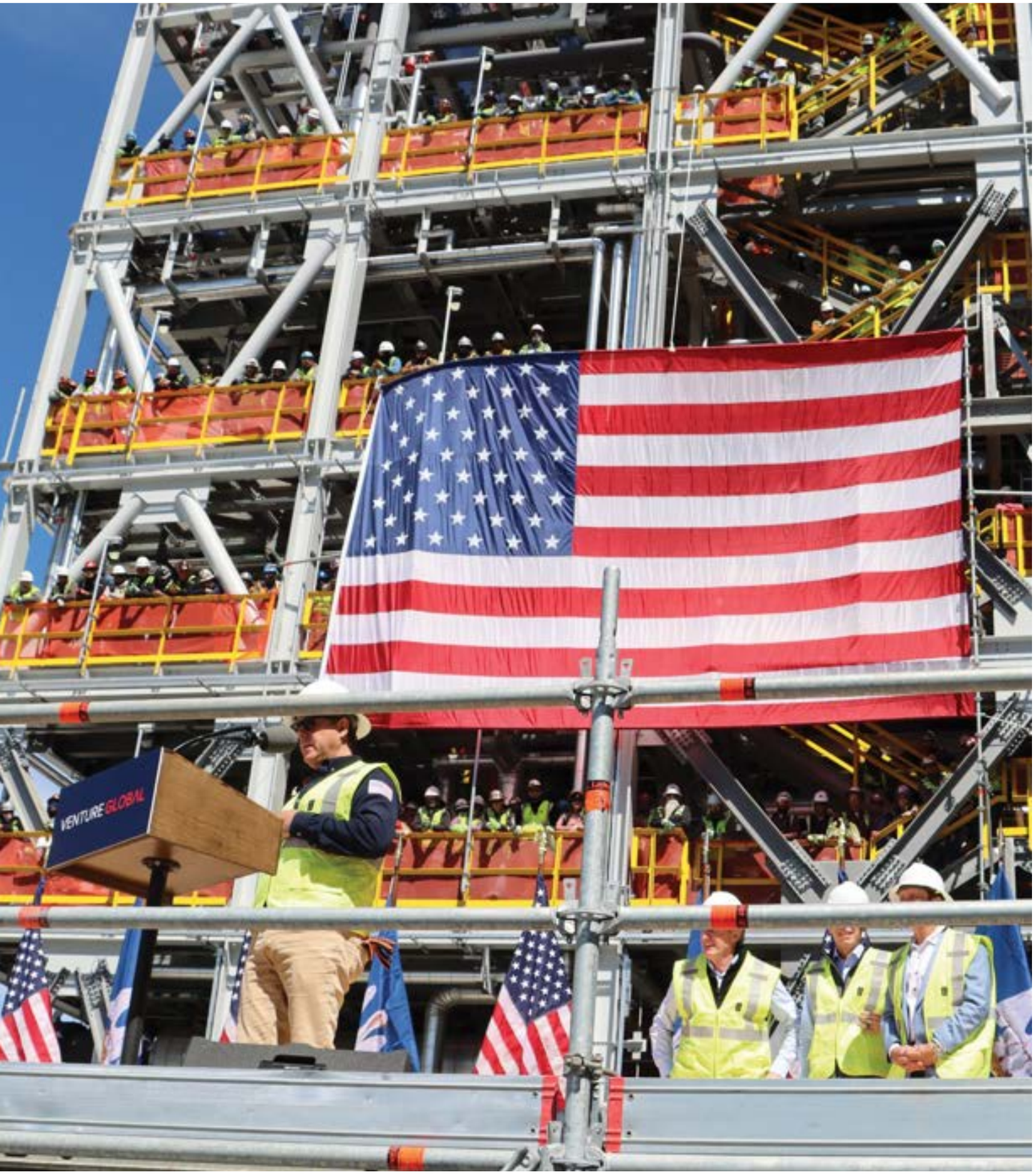
Meeting Global Energy Demand and Shaping the Next Wave of U.S. Industrial Investment and Innovation

- **Southwest Louisiana is one of the nation's most concentrated LNG and petrochemical hubs, giving companies a reliable platform to serve global energy demand and support U.S. energy security.**
- **Investment-ready sites connected to deepwater ports, pipelines, aviation assets, and carbon management capacity reduce development risk and accelerate project timelines.**
- **From LNG and downstream processing to emerging energy technologies and energy-adjacent manufacturing, Southwest Louisiana enables faster market entry, reliable operations, and long-term growth in globally competitive markets.**

7

The Path Forward

PHOTO: **Cargo operations at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge, supporting global energy, agriculture, and industrial trade along the Mississippi River.**



Louisiana enters the next phase of its energy future with **momentum**, **clarity**, and **alignment** across state and regional partners.

The state is committed to supporting companies as they evaluate, develop, and expand energy projects by providing predictable processes, coordinated services, and a business environment built for speed and execution. From site development and infrastructure planning to workforce readiness and regulatory coordination, Louisiana is focused on helping projects move from concept to operation with confidence.

This strategy reflects a coordinated effort among state agencies, regional economic development organizations, utilities, universities, and industry leaders to align where interests intersect and advance Louisiana's broader energy and economic objectives. LED, in coordination with C&E and other state partners, will continue serving as a connector and convener, aligning regional strengths with statewide objectives and ensuring that companies have a clear pathway through Louisiana's energy and economic development ecosystem. Regional partners play a critical role in this effort by translating statewide priorities into local action, community alignment, and project support.

> **The path forward is not a single project or policy decision, but a continuation of a coordinated statewide effort.**

Louisiana is positioned to capture near-term investment and technology deployment across LNG, nuclear, manufacturing, logistics, and advanced energy solutions, while also building a durable platform for long-term leadership. By pairing globally competitive infrastructure and natural resources with innovation assets, workforce development, and strong federal engagement, the state is creating the conditions for sustained growth across legacy and emerging sectors.

The path forward is not a single project or policy decision, but a continuation of a coordinated statewide effort. Louisiana will continue refining opportunities, aligning assets, and advancing targeted actions that strengthen its competitive position. **With clear priorities, proven execution capability, and deep partnerships across the public and private sectors, Louisiana stands ready to remain a location of choice for energy investment and innovation, while advancing U.S. energy dominance across the world.**

« PHOTO: **Venture Global's $18 billion Plaquemines LNG expansion announcement with Gov. Jeff Landry, U.S. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, and U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright.**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