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## **LDEQ Hosts EPA Region 6 Administrator Scott Mason to Discuss Energy Dominance and Economic Growth in the Industrial Corridor**



**Baton Rouge, LA** — This week, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) had the honor of welcoming W. Scott Mason, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 Administrator, to the heart of Louisiana. This visit symbolizes our state’s unwavering commitment to economic growth, energy dominance, and national security under Governor Jeff Landry, harmonizing with the Trump Administration’s vision for America’s revitalization. A highlight of the tour was the exploration of the Industrial Corridor along the Mississippi River, a region recognized as the economic breadbasket of our state and a cornerstone of the nation’s energy landscape.

“It’s a new era under the Trump Administration, emphasizing cooperative federalism, the reduction of regulatory burdens, and the unleashing of every state’s great resources. Scott Mason’s visit represents a strong partnership between federal and state agencies, industry leaders, local governments, and communities,” stated **Aurelia S. Giacometto, Secretary of the LDEQ**. “We are steadfast in our dedication to clean air and water while fostering healthy, growing economies.”

**EPA Region 6 Administrator Scott Mason remarked**, “In Baton Rouge and along the industrial corridor, I saw first-hand how critical Louisiana is to the Great American Comeback. I heard from state and parish elected officials, industry representatives, and others who are looking to EPA to bring commonsense.”

The visit commenced with introductions to leaders from prominent associations in the refinery and petrochemical sectors, including the Louisiana Chemical Association (LCA), Louisiana Mid-

Continent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA), and Louisiana Oil and Gas Association (LOGA). Discussions centered on regulatory reforms aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, dispelling out-of-state misconceptions about the Industrial Corridor, and rebuilding trust between communities and regulatory bodies.

A roundtable meeting with state legislators highlighted the economic potential of the industries within their districts. **Louisiana State Senator Ed Price** expressed optimism, stating “My meeting with Secretary Giacometto and Regional Administrator Mason was incredibly productive. We discussed practical solutions for improving our state’s environmental health while promoting economic growth. I am confident that the Secretary’s leadership will guide Louisiana toward a cleaner, more sustainable future.”

The guided tour provided Region 6 Administrator Mason with a close-up view of the innovation and efficiency driving leading refinery and petrochemical companies, including visits to Exxon Mobil and Shintech, the world’s largest producer of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Spanning the parishes of St. John the Baptist, St. James, and St. Charles, this region is not only vital to Louisiana’s economy but also to the overarching energy sector in the United States.

The tour concluded at the Port of South Louisiana, where Region 6 Administrator Mason engaged with the presidents of the three River Parishes and representatives from the refinery and petrochemical sectors - Dow, Chevron Norco, BASF, Shell, and AirProducts – and supporting industries – Bosco, Rollo Security, Maintenance Dredging, and others. They discussed proactive measures to reduce emissions, community commitments, and the challenges posed by excessive regulations.

“This joint visit between EPA Region 6 and LDEQ underscores our shared commitment to fostering economic growth while ensuring the long-term protection of our environment. As St. Charles Parish President, I welcome the focus on practical, common-sense solutions that allow us to responsibly harness our natural resources, strengthening both our local economy and our role in energy production,” **said Matthew Jewell, St. Charles Parish President.**

“St. James Parish is grateful for EPA Region 6 Director Scott Mason’s visit to South Louisiana, as well as Louisiana LDEQ Secretary Aurelia Giacometto’s continued commitment to fostering environmental responsibility while supporting economic growth. We appreciate the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions on balancing these priorities,” **said Pete Dufresne, President of St. James Parish.** “Our parish remains dedicated to welcoming and supporting industries that drive job creation and economic expansion while upholding the highest environmental standards. We are fully committed to working within EPA guidelines to ensure sustainable growth that benefits the families of St. James Parish, our region, and the state of Louisiana for years to come.”

**Luca Balbo, Senior Lead Site Manufacturing Director** remarked, “At Dow, our objective is to build, protect and maintain our social license to operate by following industry standard practices, operating responsibly, taking care of our workers and being a good community partner,” **said Luca Balbo.** “Dow’s long-time presence in the state of Louisiana can be attributed to the collaboration with agencies such as EPA and LDEQ. Together, we are committed to making a

positive impact and fostering a sustainable future for generations to come that ensures environmental protection and business growth.”

This visit aligns with Governor Landry’s commitment that Louisiana is open for business and that clean air and clean water is vital to the success of our great state of Louisiana and the Southern Renaissance. In addition, it illustrates that Louisiana is a key state in the Trump administration’s commitment to dismantling regulatory barriers, fostering the Great American Comeback, and empowering local industries to thrive and drive national growth.



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