



June 12, 2023

Industry Makes Response to June 4<sup>th</sup> article entitled “Louisiana still puts out the welcome mat for polluters”, written by Bob Marshall.

In a June 4<sup>th</sup> “article” published in Nola.com, Mr. Bob Marshall opines about what he perceives as Louisiana’s industry being a hazard to the health and well-being of Louisiana residents by citing the same old news magazines with worn out propaganda of Louisiana ranking last in life choices. Mr. Marshall also sites the American Medical Association but fails to give specifics of the report or to site where this report can be found and read by others. Afterwards, he goes after tax incentives and safety where he repeats how governments are “giving away” money and sacrificing safety.

And while Industry Makes takes issue with Mr. Marshall’s opinion, it is of exceptional offense that Nola.com continues to publish such misleading pieces that prey upon the fears of Louisiana residents to justify additional grants and outside funding.

Please, allow me to be more specific than Mr. Marshall; In the beginning paragraph Mr. Marshall asks the question, “is \$18,000.00 too much for a multi-million-dollar company to spend warning neighbors...” Certainly not. But please note that industry already has monitors inside the plant, or, at the source of the permitted emissions, thereby assuring that the workforce inside the plant or refinery will be the first to know if something is out of the ordinary, much sooner than if there were monitors at the fence line; additionally, these monitors are more sensitive and accurate than anything that would be placed on a fence line. Lastly, the price of air monitors is not simply \$18,000.00- it is \$18,000.00 per monitor.

Every industrial manufacturing facility is equipped with sirens that are tested daily, weekly, or monthly, depending on the site. So, again, Mr. Marshall wants communities to believe that industry is the silent killer of Louisiana residents, when, in fact, Louisiana’s industry saves lives with the products that they make for hospitals to do what they do.

Mr. Marshall goes on to write about the local “grassroots” advocacy and how industry in Louisiana feels entitled. A simple call to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, or the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, or Department of Natural Resources would have debunked such thoughts. Louisiana industry is heavily regulated by federal, state, and local governments and must comply with those regulations. If they do not, employees of these companies can be held personally responsible for injuries or damage. The industry workforce lives here in Louisiana- why would they want to pollute?

It is glamorous and lucrative to be an environmental activist these days. Before you fall prey to the tactics, do your homework and ask yourself what benefit does industry receive by polluting?

Think about your quality of life, and what it would be without the advances in science that industry provides through research and development of more efficient processes that are based soundly in science, not fear.