

For Immediate Release May 23, 2008

Vitter, Alexander, McCrery Announce Grant for Kisatchie Delta Development District

Contact: Joel DiGrado, 202-224-4623

Jenni Terry, 202-225-8490

(Washington, D.C.) - U.S. Sen. David Vitter and U.S. Reps Rodney Alexander and Jim McCrery today announced the award of a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Enterprise Grant for \$48,970 to the Kisatchie Delta Regional Planning and Development District.

"This is good news for the local community," Vitter said. "By providing for the continued education of our workforce we strengthen our local businesses and economy, providing new opportunities for employees and their families as a direct result."

The grant funds will be used to help private businesses throughout north-central Louisiana by creating, expanding and operating rural distance learning networks and rural learning programs that provide educational instruction or job training to potential employees or to employees seeking job advancement.

"In rural areas throughout the 5th Congressional District, job training can have a profound impact on the lives of individuals by providing instruction that will equip them with the skills and knowledge they need to pursue opportunities and make advancements in the workplace," Alexander said. "Additionally, the entire region benefits from having a stronger, more educated workforce."

"Workforce development initiatives such as this are critical to promoting and sustaining economic growth throughout our rural communities. I am pleased that USDA

recognizes the importance of grants like this and the positive impact they have in Louisiana," said McCrery.

The Kisatchie Delta Regional Planning and Development District includes Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon and Winn parishes.

- 30 -