

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

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SEN. MORRELL REVIEWS WORK OF DIFFICULT REDISTRICTING SPECIAL SESSION

District 3 State Senator Jean-Paul "JP" Morrell (D-New Orleans) issued the following statement regarding the work of the special legislative session.

"This has been a very difficult session. Emotions have run very high with officials sensitive about protecting their districts and the people they represent. And on top of the redistricting issue, we still face stark budget realities, questions about how we save SUNO and about how I protect the interest of the city I live in and love. All of these issues seem to compound themselves everyday. But I accept it all as the job I must do as a leader in this state.

"Some have used this session to create confusion rather than cohesion. Some only have been interested in their political seats. Some have tried to disparage those of us who work hard for all of our citizens. My record and my votes speak for themselves, and everyone else's should do the same!

"I did not come to the Louisiana Senate or to this redistricting session to play games or protect my personal interests. I'm here to fight for what's best for my district and the citizens of New Orleans.

"To that end I opposed the Senate redistricting plan which breaks up communities of interests in the Greater New Orleans Area, particularly as the plan impacts New Orleans East, Gentilly, St. Bernard Parish and the Upper and Lower Ninth Ward. I also opposed the House redistricting plan as it haphazardly merges many dissimilar areas throughout the New Orleans region.

"Additionally, the Senate was tasked with passing a congressional redistricting plan. After numerous attempts to pass a congressional plan, despite the constant meddling of the Governor and congressmen's self-interest, the Legislature has passed a bill. Unfortunately, it is a bill that dilutes the voice of the African Americans as well as the people of South Louisiana.

"While we've been debating this redistricting issue, I've continued to fight for a stalled TIF in New Orleans East, the return of secondary and vocational schools in the under-served Ninth Ward and uncontaminated playgrounds for our children throughout this state.

"Veteran legislators know that the 2011 Regular Session doesn't start at the end of the month, it started at the end of the 2010 session. Our work is not done, it's never done. Multitasking on behalf of our district is not optional, it's mandatory.

"I look forward to returning at the end of the month to debate the issues that affect this great state and return, truly, to doing the people's work."

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