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Pelican Institute and CAGW Release *2009 Louisiana Pork Report*

(Baton Rouge, Louisiana) – Today on the front steps of the Louisiana State Capitol Building, the Pelican Institute for Public Policy and the nation’s premiere national taxpayer watchdog group Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) released the *2009 Louisiana Pork Report: The Book Louisiana’s Government Doesn’t Want You To Read*. Pelican Institute President Kevin Kane and CAGW President Tom Schatz unveiled the report.

The *2009 Louisiana Pork Report* reveals rampant and undisciplined spending by Louisiana's state and local governments. As the state grapples with a \$1.8 billion shortfall, the *Pork Report* unmask an ingrained addiction to overspending as the real culprit behind the state's budget crisis. The *2009 Louisiana Pork Report* can be found at <http://www.pelicaninstitute.org>, and at www.cagw.org. “If the state of Louisiana wants to put its fiscal house in order, it should start by cutting the rampant wasteful spending currently in its budget,” said Schatz.

“Louisiana has been hindered by its reputation for corrupt and incompetent government,” said Pelican Institute President Kevin Kane. “If our elected officials want to earn public trust, they need to be good fiscal stewards of taxpayer money. Unfortunately, the *2009 Louisiana Pork Report* indicates that too many officials at the state and local level are wasting money on unnecessary projects.” Some highlights:

- \$29.8 million in overtime in 2008 to state workers in just two agencies, the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana State Police Department;
- \$4 million to a private golf club, the Tournament Players Club in Avondale, which hosts the annual Zurich Classic;
- \$1,000,000 for the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts - Riverfront High School, though no purpose is specified;
- \$400,000 for an expo center for Ascension Parish;
- \$230,000 for six museums, including the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame and Museum;
- \$100,000 each to the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the Boys and Girls Club.

The [Pelican Institute for Public Policy](http://www.pelicaninstitute.org) is a nonprofit research and education institution that conducts scholarly research and analysis of Louisiana public policy. The Institute's mission is to advance sound policies based on the principles of free enterprise, individual liberty, and limited government. [Citizens Against Government Waste](http://www.cagw.org) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government.

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