

Mr. Archie Chaisson, Jr.  
Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District  
1016 St. Mary Street  
Thibodaux, LA 70301

October 15, 2008

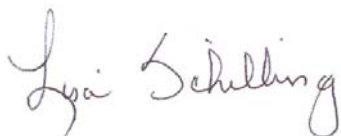
Dear Mr. Chaisson,

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce appreciates the need for increased freshwater capacity in Bayou Lafourche to provide drinking water to over 300,000 area residents, and supports the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District in implementing emergency dredging of the bayou to achieve this result. Often taken for granted, four parishes in the Bayou Region gained a much greater appreciation for the quality and safety of our water supply in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav as the pumping capacity in Bayou Lafourche was limited and vegetative debris littered the waterway.

The recent decision by the Freshwater District's Board of Directors, with the technical and financial support of the State, to move forward with bayou enhancements is a necessary one. Swift and deliberate action is needed to finish clearing the bayou and its banks of debris and to begin dredging the first 6.2 miles of bayou, allowing for increased pumping capacity that will ensure fresh drinking water is provided to the citizens of Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes.

We understand what a momentous undertaking this is for your District, and the financial and physical demands it entails; however, the benefits of this emergency project are far greater than its costs, positively impacting *hundreds of thousands* of citizens represented by the district and served by your board members. We strongly believe that the speed at which this project moves and its eventual success will have a direct impact on the implementation of other projects in our region and across the state. Therefore, we thank you for being prepared and willing to effectively and efficiently manage emergency situations such as this, and we aggressively support the implementation and completion of the emergency Bayou Lafourche dredging project.

Sincerely,



Lisa Schilling  
Chairman of the Board



Drake Pothier, IOM  
President & CEO

Cc: Alvin Hebert, Chair, Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District; Garret Graves, Governor's Office of Coastal Activities; Stephen Hornsby, Consolidated Waterworks Dist. No. 1