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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2402

August 27, 2018

Mayor Gary Rhoads, President  
Rankin Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District  
P.O. Box 320790  
Flowood, MS 39232

Dear Mayor Rhoads:

Recently, several questions and concerns have been brought to my attention concerning the proposed One Lake Project sponsored by the Rankin Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District.

To have a better understanding of this project and address the concerns of my constituents, I would like your written response to the attached questions. You may send your reply to me at my Bolton District Office, P.O. Box 610, Bolton, MS 39041 by September 14, 2018.

You may direct any questions or concerns relative to this letter, to Ms. Fannie Ware at 601-866-9003 or [fware@mail.house.gov](mailto:fware@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress

Attachment

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P.O. Box 610  
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(601) 866-9003  
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263 EAST MAIN STREET  
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MOUND BAYOU, MS 38762  
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## Cost/Benefit Questions:

1. **Per HB 1585, what would be the estimated annual ad valorem tax increase per affected property owner in Rankin and Hinds Counties?**
2. Will this lake help or complicate the urban creek drainage and flash flooding (non-river related) problem in Jackson? For instance, Eubanks Creek flooded in Fondren on the weekend of August 11, 2018, when the Pearl River was at normal low flow. **How would a lake that adds 8 feet to the river's surface elevation affect normal street flooding during heavy rains in Jackson?**
3. **What management authority will own the project and control water levels and releases? What will they base these decisions on?**
4. The Pearl River Valley Water Supply District, is responsible for the managing and maintaining the Ross Barnett Reservoir and Spillway. This proposal would create a dam, which, along with the existing Reservoir Spillway, means that two sets of flood gates will require tandem operation. **As such, how has the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District been consulted in the planning and design of this proposal? What are the plans for future management coordination? How will the state-required water levels in both the existing Reservoir and the planned lake be maintained?**
5. **How will the Ross Barnett Reservoir be used in combination with this proposed new lake to control floods in Jackson? Please provide any written agreements that show collaboration.**
6. **How will sewage overflows in the 11 urban creeks affect a newly built lake?**
7. **What is the comparative benefit of a lake for the City of Jackson and Hinds County versus Rankin County?** Specifically, the project would create more private riverbank in Rankin County whereas there would be more city and state-owned lands created in Hinds County.
8. The Pearl is a "working river" in both Mississippi and Louisiana, with over 100 NPDES discharge permits in Mississippi, and 8 in Louisiana. Most of the larger permits are municipal sewage treatment plants that need adequate dilution for them to function without violating their effluent limits. Jackson Savannah Street, GP Monticello and IP Bogalusa are three of the largest. For example, the St. Tammany Parish Council passed a resolution in 2013 against the dam project in Jackson, citing water stress from lake evaporation and worsening low flow as threats to the lower river's ecology, fisheries, eco-tourism businesses, and to industrial permit holders like IP Bogalusa. **Precisely how many NPDES permits will be impacted by this project due to lower freshwater flows? In other words, what impacts will this project have on industrial users and municipalities that rely on stable freshwater flow for adequate dilution of their**

**discharges, such as International Paper, Georgia-Pacific, and the towns of Bogalusa and Pearl River?**

- 9. The Mississippi Marine Resources Commission (passed in January 2015) and the Louisiana House and Senate during the 2018 session (SCR5), have resolutions against the project. In Louisiana both the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and the state's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority were critical of this project in their 2013 scoping comments. Also, every county and parish government south of Columbia, Mississippi, is on record with resolutions against this project: Lawrence, Marion, Pearl River and Hancock Counties in Mississippi, plus Washington and St. Tammany Parishes and the towns of Monticello, MS, and Bogalusa, Pearl River and Slidell in Louisiana. How will the economic, environmental, and community-based concerns expressed by this significant opposition be weighed against the dubious flood control benefits of this project?**

#### **Other Issues:**

- 10. Please provide my office with your Annual Reports for years 2011-2017.**
- 11. Please provide a list of any paid employees, salaried or contractual employees, Engineers, Lobbyists, Attorneys, Consultants and all other professionals who have worked on this project.**
- 12. What provisions are in place to assure opportunities will be made available to minority businesses, if this project is funded? Please provide a copy of your minority business opportunity plan that will ensure outreach to and inclusion of minority businesses.**
- 13. Identify property owners who own property in the project footprint, or property that could benefit from the project (i.e. for example, property that would become lake "waterfront", or be filled so that the property would no longer be in the floodplain and could be more readily developed). Is there a contaminated creosote site in the project area and what is the projected clean-up cost that will be at tax-payers' expense?**
- 14. Do any of the Rankin-Hinds Flood and Drainage Control District board of directors or employees own any property in the project footprint or property that would benefit from the project?**
- 15. Please provide copies of your Audited Financial Statements for years 2007-present.**
- 16. Do any federal, state or local elected officials or any of their direct relatives own property in the project area, or hold any pecuniary interest in the project?**