



October 14, 2016

Secretary Thomas Harris  
P. O. Box 94396  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

RE: Rankin Hinds Pearl River Flood Control Project

Dear Secretary Harris:

The Louisiana Oyster Force, at its last meeting, discussed a project that could have a significant detrimental impact on Louisiana's oyster industry. The Rankin Hinds Pearl River Flood Control and Drainage Control District has proposed to dam the Pearl River near Jackson, Mississippi ostensibly for flood control. A new dam on the Pearl River will disrupt flows during construction and cause a permanent reduction in flow once in operation which will affect the Louisiana oyster industry as well as other Louisiana industries and natural resources. There are feasible and less costly alternatives for flood control such as levees and/or dry reservoirs that do not have such an effect on the lower Pearl River. It is our understanding that a *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* (DEIS) is to soon be released to the Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers.

The Louisiana Oyster Task Force hereby requests that the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources inform the Vicksburg Corps of Engineers and take whatever steps necessary to ensure that this project will be subject to and undergo a Consistency review under the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. Consistency for the current plans for a 1,500 acre lake should be subsequently denied as there are feasible alternatives less damaging to Louisiana's coastal resources.

The members of the Oyster Task Force appreciate your efforts to protect Louisiana's natural resources and will assist in any way to accomplish this endeavor.

Sincerely Yours,

John A. Tesvich, Chairman

cc: Charlie Melancon, Secretary, LDWF  
Andrew Whitehurst, Gulf Restoration Network  
Johnny Bradberry, CPRA  
Keith Lovell, Assistant Secretary, Office of Coastal Management

Louisiana Oyster Task Force

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