

From: Stanford A. Owen MD; Commissioner, St Tammany Parish Levee, Drainage, and Conservation District (STPLDC). May 28, 2023

Please take this comment as a formal opposition for the One Lake project UNLESS precise and verifiable water flow impact can be published with resulting downstream impact data.

ANY decrease in fresh water entering the Pearl delta with endanger wildlife and humans alike.

#### Wildlife

The Bogue Chitto, Pearl River, Biloxi Marsh, Bayou Sauvage, and Big Branch Wildlife Management ALL receive a majority of their fresh water and river silt from the Pearl River, NOT the Mississippi River.

Combined, this collection is the largest Wildlife Management area in the lower 48 states. Negative impact will threaten numerous species, including many commercial species. This will affect income of Mississippi and Louisiana fishermen alike, both commercial and recreational. Numerous threatened species will also be impacted, not the least of which is the recent confirmation of the Ivory Billed Woodpecker (which I have personally seen three times).

I will seek the involvement of our Conservation District in this project and hope to involve all interested environmental groups.

#### Human

In addition to the affect on the seafood economies, these marshes provide ESSENTIAL protection against storm surge, one of the primary missions of our STPLDC. Again this will affect both Mississippi and Louisiana residents alike from Pass Christian

on the East to the entire Lake Pontchartrain Basin on the West. This includes TENS of THOUSANDS of homes and businesses which, if destroyed, would multiply the damages compared to the Jackson floods by a factor of THOUSANDS.

I would like to see impact statements from each of those communities affected as well as each Wildlife Management area (which are both state and federal jurisdictions). I do not think you should proceed without these impact statements.

This project urgency is only due to secured funding, as we all know. The impacts will be felt for decades or even centuries. THERE IS NO RUSH and should be NO RUSH.

Stanford A. Owen MD