

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

April 7, 2009

VIA U.S. MAIL AND FACSIMILE: (202) 325-0060

Ms. Janet Woodka
Federal Coordinator for the Office of Gulf Coast Rebuilding
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Mail Stop #1250
245 Murray Lane
Washington, D.C. 20528-1250

Dear Ms. Woodka:

I write to express my serious concern about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' current plan to establish permanent pump stations along the outfall canals that serve as interior drainage for the New Orleans metropolitan area. This is an issue of critical importance to our rebuilding and the long-term recovery of south Louisiana, and I respectfully request your office's intervention in this matter.

I understand that the State of Louisiana, as well as the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, Orleans and Jefferson Parishes have all asked that the President and the Corps of Engineers give closer scrutiny to the options identified in the Corps' Report to Congress dated September 26, 2008. The Corps should conduct this analysis with local input and include a thorough review of the relative risks and costs associated with these alternative plans.

I support this request and ask that you convene and facilitate a meeting as early as possible between these state and local groups, the Louisiana Congressional Delegation, and key decision makers from the Administration. The purpose of the meeting would be to address these local concerns and to develop a commonly accepted path forward that will substantially reduce the risk of a recurrence of major flooding in the area.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this critical matter. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Projects Director, Tanner A. Johnson, at (202) 224-5824.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

cc: Louisiana Congressional Delegation
Garret Graves, Chair of Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Orleans Parish Delegation
Jefferson Parish Delegation
New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board