

Plaquemines Parish Government

BILLY NUNGESSER
Parish President

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June 22, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Re: dredge operations

Dear President Obama,

At 6:00 p.m. Central Time today the California dredge, located off the Chandelier Islands pumping more than fifty thousand (50,000) cubic yards of material each day to create a sand berm to protect South Louisiana from oil, will be shut down by the Department of Interior through the US Fish and Wildlife. By way of these agencies, we are being required to move our dredging site two more miles farther off our barrier coast, causing us to lose precious time in our fight to hold back the world's largest environmental disaster. Once again our government resource agencies, which are intended to protect us, are now leaving us vulnerable to the destruction of our coastline and marshes by the impending oil. Furthermore, with the threat of hurricanes or tropical storms, we are being put at an increased risk for devastation to our area from the intrusion of oil.

My request is to simply allow us to continue to dredge as we mobilize the pipe another two miles, approximately seven (7) days. After the pipe is mobilized, the dredge would disconnect from the original site location, move two miles out (one day) and resume dredging operations. We will replace material that was dredged from the one mile sight and replace it from the two mile site. Adaptive management and common sense are critical to the success of this project if we are going to prevail in protecting our precious marsh.

Please don't let them shut this dredge down - this requires your immediate attention! If this dredge is shut down at 6:00 p.m., I will be on Anderson Cooper at 9:00 p.m. questioning this decision.

Sincerely,



BILLY NUNGESSER
Plaquemines Parish President

BN/

cc: Michael Donovan, via email m Donovan@who.eop.gov