SHARON W. HEWITIT
State Senator
District 1
P.O. Box 828
Slidell, LA 70459

SENATE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

COMMITTEES
Senate and Governmental Affairs, Chairwoman
Environmental Quality
Natural Resources
Select Committee on Coastal Restoration and Flood Protection
Select Committee on Women and Children
Senate Executive Committee
Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget

July 25, 2021

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTENTION: PROJECT MANAGEMENT
CEMVN-PMR Room 331
7400 Leake Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118
Email: sttammanyfs@usace.army.mil

Dear Sir:

SUBJECT: ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA FEASIBILITY STUDY

I am very appreciative of the work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in evaluating options for the ongoing St. Tammany Parish Flood Risk Management Study. Flood control and prevention, along with coastal restoration, have become the single biggest concern of the residents I represent in eastern St. Tammany Parish.

With support from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), the St. Tammany Levee, Drainage and Conservation District (STLDCD), and St. Tammany Parish, I have reviewed your Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) and believe that this proposed $4B investment will provide significant benefits to the residents in my district.

I also support the work of our Non-Federal Sponsor, CPRA, and our local partners to identify additional state/local projects that currently fall outside of your TSP. These projects will provide additional flood protection to residents in the Eden Isles area by elevating Rat's Nest Road and Highway 11 and adding a floodgate and pump station at the harbor entrance.

In addition, STLDCD will provide comments to alter the segment alignment between Lakeshore Estates to Kingspoint to include additional residences and businesses, which I support.

However, I do not think that the technical work has been sufficient on the final segment near Highway 190 (Fremaux) and Highway 190 (Military Road). Two critical electrical substations owned by Cleco and Washington-St. Tammany are near this intersection and should be protected, as they provide electricity for all of the residents and businesses east of 1-10. Furthermore, it is my understanding that this final segment, which follows the utility right-of-way west of the French Branch neighborhood, violates the height clearance requirements of the utilities. More importantly, it fails to provide storm surge protection for over 3000 homes in the Magnolia Forest, Quail Ridge, Turtle Creek and Cross Gates neighborhoods.

Please consider additional alternatives on the eastern end of this TSP that would provide a solidtermination point and would not put homes and businesses at increased flood risk by intentionally excluding them from the flood protection system.

Thank you for your work and for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed plan.Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Sharon W. Hewitt Louisiana State
SenatorDistrict 1

cc: Mr. Chip Kline
Chairman, CPRA
chip.kline@la.gov

Ms. Suzanne Krieger
Chairman, STLDCD
ofckrieger@aol.com

The Honorable Mike Cooper
President, St. Tammany Parish
mcooper@stpgov.org

The Honorable Bob Owen
Louisiana State Representative, District 76
bowen@legis.la.gov

The Honorable Mary DuBuisson
Louisiana State Representative, District 90
mdubuisson@legis.la.gov

St. Tammany Office: 250 Bouscaren Street, Suite 201, Slidell, LA 70458 • Phone (985) 646-6490 • Fax (985) 646-6497
St. Bernard Office: 100 Port Boulevard, Suite 20, Chalmette, LA 70043 • Phone (504) 278-6530
hewitts@legis.la.gov