

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUESTED

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Colonel John W. Cross
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183

RE: J. Bennett Johnston Waterway (Red River) Navigation Threatened

Dear Secretary Darcy and Colonel Cross:

As representatives from a state that relies heavily on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide critical flood protection and navigable harbors and waterways, we understand and appreciate the work undertaken by the Corps in a time of constrained budgets. However, with the multiple, recent incidents of historic flooding occurring in Louisiana in the last 12 months, navigation along the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway segment of the Red River is threatened by severe shoaling.

As you are aware, beginning June 1, 2016, the Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District has \$2,370, 379 available for dredging; nevertheless recent surveys indicate it will take at least \$5,050,000 of dredging to maintain the authorized 9-foot deep by 200-foot wide channel – a \$2,669,621 shortfall. The Louisiana Congressional delegation highlighted the importance of this project and need for funding in an April 2016 letter to the Vicksburg District outlining upcoming, foreseeable operation and maintenance needs within our state.

Therefore, we request information on possible reprogrammable funds or discretionary funds available to the Corps. If funding is available, we ask that it immediately be reallocated to this project.

Navigation along the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway is important to our state's economy, and we request and thank you for your personal attention to this matter of importance to the people of Louisiana.

Respectfully,



David Vitter
United States Senator



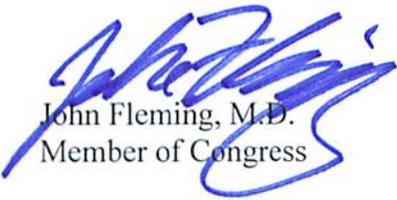
Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



John Fleming, M.D.
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress