

June 21, 2013

Northshore Harbor Center, Slidell, LA

Scalise NFIP Update

Good morning,

My name is Lee Longstreet and I am here to represent the homeowners of Eden Isles and to suggest an alternative to rising insurance rates.

For so many areas through out the United States there is no option to mitigate flood damage except through insurance. However, we as part of the highest populated area in the state do have an option to protect ourselves. It makes no sense to simply wait for destruction and then rebuild with insurance proceeds.

Why would you want to pre-fill Lake Pontchartrain for days preceding the arrival of a hurricane by leaving the Chef & Rigolets inlets wide open. In fact to help prevent flooding on the south-shore, canals are pumped low in preparation for the arrival of a storm.

Some have expressed environmental concerns with installing flood control structures at the Chef & Rigolets. Actually the structures would be of benefit to the environment. Concerns over reduction of flow have already been mitigated by the digging of the industrial canal many years ago.

The worst environmental damage in our area is caused by Hurricane driven storm surge. It kills thousands of creatures in the low lying areas and causes costal erosion. The rebuilding effort also releases untold amounts of pollution from the teardown of structures and from the tremendous amount of additional fuel that is burned in vehicles and construction equipment.

Concerns from Mississippi are unfounded. It is inconceivable that the confined waters of Lake Pontchartrain are, according to the Corps, unaffected by many miles of levees and flood control structures on the south-shore yet somehow it is feared that installing gates at the Chef & Rigolets might impact the open Gulf.

Let's not forget that besides destroying homes, hurricanes destroy lives, break up families, and trigger terrible financial & physiological problems.

It is time the Corps admit they screwed up and wasted many billions of taxpayer dollars by not building surge control structures at the inlets to Lake Pontchartrain. I know it must be terribly embarrassing, but it is time to stop the cover up and do what is right. This issue is never going to go away and it must and will be built at some point. Let's do it now and stop the waste and suffering.

Thank you.