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MISSION: B.I.G. informs, supports, and strengthens business and community.

April 14, 2022

Congressman Garret Graves
2402 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support of FY 2023 Appropriations Request for Morganza to the Gulf

Dear Congressman Graves,

Bayou Industrial Group (B.I.G.) is a non-partisan organization committed to the growth and sustainability of business and industry in the Bayou Region of South Louisiana. Currently, B.I.G. membership includes over 120 companies and individuals from primarily Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary, and Assumption Parishes representing the oil and gas industry, manufacturing, agriculture, professional services, retail, higher education, and government. Founded in 1973, B.I.G. is the oldest industrial association in the region with a strong history of supporting economic development, infrastructure, coastal restoration and protection, education, and public health and safety initiatives in our Bayou Region communities. We recognize the importance of “strength in numbers” and work hard to advocate for important issues.

On behalf of Bayou Industrial Group, I am writing today in support of the \$31 million request for Community Project Funding, submitted by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to be provided to the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Funds would be used as a second lift in order to raise Reach F as high as 18 feet. This would elevate the connection between two key features of the Morganza system – Bayou Grand Caillou Floodgate and Houma Navigation Canal Lock Complex. This reach is a main line component of the Houma Navigational Canal (it parallels the canal for four miles toward Houma). Since the canal is the easiest pathway for floodwater into the system and Houma, this levee protects immediately the communities of Dularge, Dulac, and Grand Calliou but is also vitally important to the city of Houma. This reach is four miles and includes the Bayou Grand Calliou Structure. Increasing the level of protection with this reach works in synergy with construction of the Houma Navigational Canal Lock Complex. Most importantly, this is the easiest project in the system to begin construction and has all environmental clearances needed for USACE to start work. This request is worthy of your support and could begin construction as soon as funds are made available.

This project has advanced in true partnership with our community, local sponsors, Corps, and elected representatives. We realized success within Community Project Funding Requests in FY 22 because of your efforts. We hope to build upon that success with this “shovel ready” element of Morganza.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey Nichols".

Stacey Nichols
Executive Director