



LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

"... conserving our natural resources and your right to enjoy them."

14 September 2004

Hon. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor of Louisiana
P. O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Governor Blanco:

Thank you for the good job you are doing in leading our state. The Louisiana Wildlife Federation is pleased with your appointments at the Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries, Environmental Quality and Natural Resources and have noted a renewed enthusiasm and dedication among the employees of those agencies in the few months since you took office. It is very heartening for us to see this positive attitude and we look forward to the results it will bring.

We are taking this opportunity to contact you because of our concern with the rash of reservoir projects that have been proposed for state funding over the past few years. I have enclosed a copy of a resolution adopted by the delegates to the 65th annual meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) earlier this year that outlines our concerns. LWF is not opposed to reservoir development, per se, and many of our members enjoy some of the more well-known reservoirs such as Toledo Bend, but we also recognize the value of the landscape, and the natural, cultural and economic resources that are forever lost when inundated behind a dam. Although the concept of a reservoir is simple, the impacts are not and are not all good. It is our view that future reservoir development in the state should be prioritized based on, and primarily for the purpose of, meeting the state's present and realistically anticipated future water supply needs. Reservoir proposals should also receive a rigorous evaluation of their costs and benefits, and be subject to public hearings and comment, especially in the communities that will be affected, prior to the commitment of any substantial government funding to proceed with planning and construction. That would be appropriately respectful of the tax dollars that are invested in such projects and prudent execution of the state's business.

We hope you will consider reviewing the state's policy toward reservoir development and call for changes that will provide a more thorough evaluation of these projects prior the investment of scarce taxpayer dollars and the sacrifice of homes, farms, forests, wildlife, scenic streams and the cultural heritage that goes along with these endearing elements of our great state. Thank you for your help on this. Please let us know if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Randy P. Lanctot
Executive Director

C Sen. Don Hines
Rep. Herman Hill
Rep. Tom Mcvea