



House of Representatives

DEBBIE G. BUCKNER
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 130
780 FIELDERS MILL ROAD
JUNCTION CITY, GEORGIA 31812
(706) 269-3630 (H)
E-MAIL: dbuckner@legis.state.ga.us

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 511 E
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334
(404) 656-6372

November 27, 2010

STANDING
COMMITTEES:
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RETIREMENT
STATE INSTITUTIONS AND PROPERTY

Congressman Sanford Bishop
18 9th Street
Columbus, GA 31901

Dear Congressman Bishop:

First of all, let me congratulate you on your recent re-election. I know the campaign trail is difficult and I am delighted you prevailed.

I am writing to you regarding some of my thoughts related to the need for the Metro-Atlanta region to have an ample supply of water for their growing population. Two thoughts have been discussed that I want to propose to you for consideration for Congressional funding for a study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

1. A study to assess the feasibility of dredging Lake Lanier to increase its storage capacity. Studies have shown that since Lake Lanier was first constructed, the lake's storage capacity has been reduced by approximately 18% due to sediment from runoff. Dredging resulting in the removal of that silt would result in significant increased storage capacity.
2. A study to assess the feasibility of raising the height of the Buford Dam which would also increase the storage capacity. There has been a great deal of discussion about the amount of water would result in an increase of just 1-2 feet in the height of the Buford Dam. It is believed by many it would greatly increase the Lake's volume and more than supply the Metro area their water needs. Since the shoreline is already available it would not be a negative impact in the sense of needing to purchase "right of way" or access.

There are several advantages to increasing Lake Lanier's storage capacity such as:

- More storage capacity would help reduce downstream flooding. The flooding of some of the Metro areas last year might have been prevented with additional storage capacity.
- With additional storage capacity and increased dam height it might also increase the opportunity for additional hydroelectric power generation.
- It would be a more cost effective measure for the state of Georgia to increase the volume of Lake Lanier than to build 4-6 new reservoirs which might also result

in interbasin transfers of water to fill them thereby causing difficulty for downstream communities.

- With more water capacity in the ACF system, the pressure of the Endangered Species Act would be reduced below Woodruff Dam.
- With the information from the proposed studies support could probably be obtained on a Water Resources Development Act from Georgia, Alabama, and Florida so water supply could be an authorized use of the expanded Lanier project possibly and hopefully bringing an end to the water wars of the three states.

It is my understanding that for either of these two options to become a reality we must obtain authorization of the suggested studies of the dredging and of the raising the height of the dam. Funding for the study would have to be allocated and then if either or both of the studies result in a favorable outcome then funding for the construction project would have to be allocated. It is my understanding that only projects or studies that are considered to be a part of the Corp's "continuing authority" programs can proceed without specific Congressional authorization, although Congress often will authorize specific projects under those programs to ensure construction. I would hope these studies could be a part of the Corp's "continuing authority" to expedite the process to help the Metro Atlanta area with its water supply problem.

The Metro Atlanta area is very accurately described as the economic engine of the State and I appreciate the importance and positive impact that area has on our region and I fully recognize how interconnected we all are. As a State Representative of an area of the State that lies within the Chattahoochee and Flint River basins I am very dedicated to helping the Metro Atlanta area be successful in meeting their water supply needs while also protecting the water supply needs of my District. I truly believe these two studies would help us find the needed answers to solve this problem once and for all.

I would be most willing to discuss this with you further if you should have any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration and I anxiously await your reply.

Sincerely,



Debbie G. Buckner



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January 15, 2011

STANDING
COMMITTEES:
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
RETIREMENT
STATE INSTITUTIONS AND PROPERTY

Congressman Lynn Westmoreland
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Westmoreland:

First of all, let me congratulate you on your recent re-election and appointment to your new Finance Sub Committees. Thank you for your very kind letter of congratulations on my re-election and election as a Caucus officer.

I am writing to you regarding some of my thoughts related to the need for the Metro-Atlanta region to have an ample supply of water for their growing population. Two thoughts have been discussed that I want to propose to you for consideration for Congressional funding for a study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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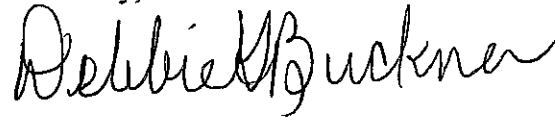
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I would be most willing to discuss this with you further if you should have any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration and I anxiously await your reply about the possibilities of these studies.

Sincerely,



Debbie G. Buckner