



To: Louisiana Congressional Delegation, Governor Edwards, Lieutenant Governor Nungesser

The problem of hypoxia or low oxygen in Louisiana's coastal waters has been an issue of along with 12 other states along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, along with federal agencies, stakeholders, and researchers, has been working to address this problem since 1997 as part of the national Gulf Hypoxia Task Force.

The Louisiana Oyster Task Force is concerned about water quality issues that affect our industry, including high nutrient levels in the Mississippi River and coastal waters. We passed a resolution on this issue at our May 2017 meeting expressing support for the efforts to reduce the size and growth of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the participation by the state of Louisiana in these efforts, and reaffirmed this resolution at our November 2018 meeting.

Specifically, the resolution reaffirms our support for the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan - a 20% reduction in nutrient loading to the Gulf of Mexico from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers by the year 2025 through their joint efforts, and a reduction in the average annual size of the Gulf Hypoxic Zone to 5000 square kilometers/1950 square miles by the year 2035 - which the state of Louisiana has committed to help achieve.

We are attaching a copy of this resolution, and ask that you continue to help Louisiana achieve the commitment to reduce nutrient levels in the Mississippi River and the size of the Gulf Hypoxic Zone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Jesvick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Louisiana Oyster Task Force
Chairman

Cc:

Mr. Johnny Bradberry, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Dr. Mike Strain, Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Dr. Chuck Brown, Department of Environmental Quality