



STATE OF GEORGIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ATLANTA 30334-0900

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
United States Senate
131 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Isakson,

As you are aware, the passing of the WIIN Act of 2016 de-authorized the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam at Augusta in favor of a fixed rock weir arrangement across the entire river. The weir or rock ramp would be designed to pass endangered fish species, as required to mitigate for negative environmental effects of the vitally important Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP).

Complying with the environmental requirements mandated by SHEP is of utmost importance, as the Savannah Harbor Deepening project will support jobs and economic growth in Georgia and the nation as a whole. However, the de-authorization of the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam creates several concerns throughout the surrounding communities.

The New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam, through its five remotely operated dam gates, provides critical functions for the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) – it creates a steady, controlled 10-mile long River Pool, and it routinely minimizes flood water levels during storm events. These water levels are critical for navigation, recreation, and industry in the Augusta and North Augusta communities.

I urge you and your colleagues to study and support solutions that would allow the critical pool and flood control functions of the dam to continue while simultaneously complying with SHEP mandates, creating sufficient mitigation for Georgia's endangered fish species. Please feel free to reach out to my office for any needed resources on the matter.

Sincerely,

Nathan Deal

Nathan Deal
Governor