

SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
SECOND DISTRICT, GEORGIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
RANKING MEMBER
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION/VA
AGRICULTURE
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2429 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1002
PHONE: (202) 225-3631
FAX: (202) 225-2203



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 2, 2014

DISTRICT OFFICES:

ALBANY
235 ROOSEVELT AVENUE
ALBANY TOWERS, SUITE 114
ALBANY, GA 31701
PHONE: (229) 439-8067
FAX: (229) 436-2099

COLUMBUS
18 NINTH STREET, SUITE 201
COLUMBUS, GA 31901
PHONE: (706) 320-9477
FAX: (706) 320-9479

MACON
682 CHERRY STREET, SUITE 302
MACON, GA 31201
PHONE: (478) 803-2631
FAX: (478) 803-2637

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers
United States Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Lieutenant General Bostick:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the urgent need for a long term response by the United States Army Corps of Engineers to the growth of hydrilla in Lake Seminole, which is located in southwest Georgia. The unbridled growth of this invasive aquatic plant presents a major problem for the health and well-being of the lake as well as its surrounding communities.

To date, the Corps of Engineers' management of this problem has been insufficient to eliminate the threat posed by hydrilla in Lake Seminole. A concrete plan of action to combat this hazard is essential and I strongly urge the Corps of Engineers to undertake a more proactive strategy to halt and ultimately eradicate the growth of hydrilla from Lake Seminole.

Lake Seminole's hydrilla infestation poses a serious danger to the lake's aquatic inhabitants. This weed's ability to multiply at alarmingly high speeds has enabled it to dominate the vegetation within the lake. As hydrilla grows, it gradually creates a thick, blanket-like cover near the water's surface, which drastically impedes sunlight from reaching the lake's submerged plant life. Additionally, the presence of hydrilla leads to increases in both water temperature and pH levels while simultaneously decreasing the supply of oxygen available for native lake dwellers. In light of these dangers, it is clear that Lake Seminole requires a more aggressive long term strategy to halt any further environmental degradation.

Equally important, the unfettered growth of hydrilla in Lake Seminole also raises social and economic concerns. The dense network of hydrilla that forms near the water's surface significantly limits recreation. Waterways overrun by hydrilla become unnavigable, which prohibit a number of water activities such as boat use.

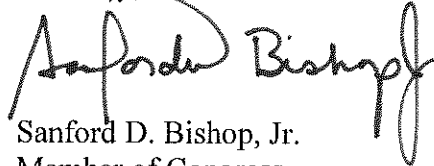
Page two
October 2, 2014
Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick

Furthermore, the plant's adverse impact on Lake Seminole and numerous connecting channels and streams may lead to a decrease in property values of real-estate surrounding Lake Seminole as the recreational related resources within the area dwindle.

I look forward to working with you on this important issue and ensuring that the Corps of Engineers institutes an effective strategy and effort which addresses this matter. Thank you for your consideration.

With warmest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sanford D. Bishop, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

cc: Brigadier General C. David Turner
Colonel Jon J. Chytka