CHARLIE MELANCON
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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
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September 29, 2009

Sec. Ray LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Sec. William D. Ankner
LA Dept. of Transportation & Development
1201 Capitol Access Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Sec. Ken Salazar
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Sec. Robert Barham
LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Secretaries LaHood, Salazar, Ankner and Barham,

I write to bring to your attention the recent fire that destroyed the historic wooden bridge in Grand Isle. This bridge was a cornerstone of the community and of the thousands of people that visit Grand Isle every year. Not only was it part of the culture of the island, but it was an integral component of its economy.

There are several alternatives that may offer similar economic and cultural benefits as the historic bridge. One of these options includes preserving the current concrete bridge used to access the island once the new vehicle bridge is completed. There are legitimate safety concerns associated with this option, but it does not detract from the importance of finding a workable solution for this community.

I pledge to work with all the concerned parties, both state and federal, to come to a resolution on this issue. My office is open and willing to help reach a resolution. Thank you very much for your time and efforts in this matter.

Sincerely,

Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress

cc: President Aaron Broussard, Jefferson Parish Government
Mayor David Carmadelle, Town of Grand Isle
Dir. Sam D. Hamilton, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services

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