

Mr. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

December 29, 2021

Member of Congress

Second District of Georgia

Re: Lake Seminole Petition

Dear Mr. Bishop:

Thank you for your recent efforts to secure funding in the Fiscal 2023 Budget for the management of hydrilla and other invasive grasses in Lake Seminole. Your recognition that Lake Seminole is a "treasure" to the communities of southwest Georgia is an absolute for its' economic and recreational value. In support of your efforts, please find attached over 1000+/- petition signatures requesting annual funding to address the current navigational Safety issues caused by hurricane Michael and management of the invasive grass issues in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hydrilla Action Management Plan of 1998. This plan recognized the value of aquatic vegetation for a balanced and productive eco-system. Balance is the key to assuring the economic value of the Lake Seminole resource to the local, state and federal economies. Stewardship of this resource for a safe balanced eco-system requires annual funding for maintenance which only you can help secure.

The petition signatures, collected over a two-week period, represent a small fraction of the concerned population who use and benefit from a safe and healthy Lake Seminole. These signatures are also supportive of our Seminole and Decatur County Commissioners and their Joint Resolution previously communicated to you.

The work of Mr. Paul Fryer in helping to bring these issues to your attention is greatly appreciated. Please advise if there is anything we can do as concerned citizens and lovers of Lake Seminole to help you in securing annual funding to protect our valuable resource.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Dickman