



August 17, 2026

Université des Acadiens

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has conducted a series of studies to evaluate the potential effects of dredging the Vermilion River. These studies used state-of-the-art modeling tools and the most current available data to assess how different dredging alternatives could help reduce flood risk within the Vermilion River watershed.

The Vermilion River is a vital waterway for our region. It supports navigation, recreation, drainage, and other important community uses, while also playing a significant role in the movement of floodwaters during extreme storm events. Based on the University's studies, it is my understanding that certain dredging alternatives have the potential to provide localized reductions in flood levels along some segments of the river, with generally minimal adverse effects in other areas. While dredging is only one element in addressing the region's broader water management needs, it can provide multiple benefits, including supporting navigation and helping sustain the Vermilion River as a healthy waterway for the communities and ecosystems that depend on it.

We therefore believe that dredging should be considered as part of a more comprehensive, watershed-scale approach to flood mitigation. Such an approach should evaluate a range of complementary measures, including watershed-scale detention; measures to maximize the natural flood-mitigation functions of the region's swamps and wetland systems, such as the Cypress Island Swamp Complex; and storm-surge control structures and other measures that can reduce the movement of coastal floodwaters into the watershed. Together, these strategies offer the opportunity to address flooding more comprehensively across the region.

Given the importance of the Vermilion River and its watershed to our region, I support Congressman Clay Higgins and the Lafayette Consolidated Government in their request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers address the dredging needs of the Vermilion River. I also encourage continued federal, state, local, and regional collaboration to evaluate and advance other flood-mitigation opportunities as part of a comprehensive strategy to support a healthy, functional, and resilient Vermilion River and watershed.

Most Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R26L", written over a horizontal line.

Ramesh Kolluru
President