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For Immediate Release

Protect our Home!

Greenfield Grain Elevator Poses Potential Threat to “Catfish Capital of the Universe”

State Seeks Additional Information on Greenfield’s bid to Locate Heavy Industry Near Lac des Allemands.

October 26, 2021 (Wallace, LA)-- Yet another state agency has flagged Greenfield’s attempt to bring its heavy industry project, a grain elevator, to the small town of Wallace, La. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is seeking additional information regarding the grain elevator’s impact on Lac des Allemands, citing the lake’s impaired condition due to foreign vegetation and oxygen levels. Untreated stormwater produced by the grain elevator could mean trouble for the Lake’s aquatic life and its robust seafood industry. Lac des Allemands is known internationally as an essential resource for culture, recreation, and of course, seafood. Louisiana named Lac des Allemands the “Catfish Capital of the Universe” in 1980. The Descendants Project, the organizers of the Stop the Wallace Grain Elevator movement, hope to keep it that way by urging officials to protect the space from heavy industry such as Greenfield’s project.

Greenfield’s heavy industry grain project would impact Lac des Allemands by sending the facility’s stormwater with pollutants from its operations into the ecosystem. The Agency noted Lac des Allemands is already facing issues with dissolved oxygen and non-native vegetation. Greenfield’s project would introduce even more non-native vegetation and other pollutants affecting the delicate balance of the lake and other bodies of water that connect to it.

The Descendants Project traveled to Pleasure Bend, another small town in St. John the Baptist Parish that borders the lake, to emphasize the importance of Lac des Allemands and Greenfield’s threats. The organization was joined by Naomi Yoder, an Environmental Scientist with Healthy Gulf, for a live stream on Facebook. Yoder expertly described the many benefits of Lac des Allemands including its importance as a catfish hatchery. Yoder explains “It’s a catfish nursery and it’s extremely productive. There are many other fish that are fished here as well that are recreationally, economically, and ecologically important.” Yoder also explained water from Lac des Allemands flows into Lake Salvador and Barataria Bay - stormwater from Greenfield’s heavy grain project would impact all.

The Descendants Project Founder Joy Banner asks the community, especially those in Pleasure Bend, to speak out against the project. “Greenfield is attempting to bring heavy industry very close to Lac des Allemands. This could have a tremendous impact on the Pleasure Bend, the parish, the state, and the world.” Banner strongly recommends individuals appeal to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and other permitting agencies to oppose the project by sending comments to:

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Water Permits Division
P.O. Box 4313
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313
Attn: Water Quality Certification

Individuals can also fill out an online form www.thedescendantsproject.com/public-comments for the organization to submit on their behalf. For more information about The Stop the Grain Elevator movement and The Descendants Project, contact Jo Banner at 225-206-1993 or jo@thedescendantsproject.com.