

The Louisiana House of Representatives



The following document is from:

REPRESENTATIVE ROY A. BURRELL *District 2*

To: Perry Franklin From: Rep Burrell

Date: 1/9/13 Time: 4:34

Sent by: M. Armand

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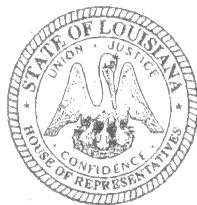
IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH THIS TRANSMISSION, PLEASE CONTACT

Monique AT (318) 676-7137 . Thank you!

Remarks:

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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ROY A. BURRELL
 State Representative ~ District 2

Administration of Criminal Justice
 Appropriations
 Governor's Task Force on
 DWI-Vehicular Homicide
 Joint Legislative Committee on
 Capital Outlay
 Joint Legislative Committee on
 the Budget
 Municipal, Parochial and
 Cultural Affairs

January 9, 2013

Dear Kent Rogers,

As the State Representative of the district (2) which is mostly affected by the proposed highway project, I am writing you this letter to register my concern and displeasure about the December 11-13 public meeting process for the Environmental impact Study (EIS) on the Inner City I-49 Connector (ICIC) through Shreveport. As public officials, we fought very hard for the millions of dollars to restudy the feasibility of the ICIC section, only to allow the public process to be contaminated by special interest groups. These organizations included the Shreveport Housing Authority (Managing Director and Assistant Director) and the group Loop It, LLC (formed by local retired Architect Bill Weiner and assisted by local Architect Kim Mitchell) which were steering neighborhood residents against the potential building of ICIC project.

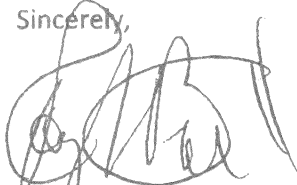
By your own admission, the Providence Group and Franklin industries, it was evident that these groups were adversarial to a fair and open process which I understand that is required by the Federal Highway Administration and possibly the state transportation department. By my own observation and that of others present informed me of these group's open opposition in and around the project voting boxes, confusing many of the neighborhood residents who attended. I am concerned that these blatant actions could unduly bias the final outcome to build or not build the ICIC section. My further concern is that this December 2012 public meetings and voting will determine the final actions for this highway project despite the process contamination.

I have made the area Senator (Greg Tarver) aware of the actions of the special interest groups and your lack of authority and control to remove them from the location of the public process. He was very disturbed and will also address the issue with you since he represents the affected area, and own businesses in the neighborhood. Even upon your insistence for them to decess and desist, you acknowledged to me that they would not leave the public meeting and voting area. Also, I observed (which could be verified by the attendance records) these special interest adversarial groups were present at all three public hearings (December 11-13), engaging the citizens, and in some cases, passing out flyers and leaflets with misinformation.

Since I would be presumptuous to assume that you do not have a concern for your lack of control during this important process, I would ask that the contracted agents and government organizations (Providence, Franklin Industries, NLCOG and LDOTD) meet with the Senator and me to discuss your assessment of the disruption in the public EIS process, and assess any possible damages and remedies. As part of the EIS process, at what point will the public be given more information about the potential ICIC project (actual economic impact information) where they can make a more informed decision whether to build or not? Should this not be a part of the overall public education process?

Again, our concern as public officials is to have an open and unbiased public process that educates the public in order to make informed decisions. Obviously, from repeated observations and facts, that did not happen here. I look forward to your response. You may contact me at 318-676-7137 for any questions. Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy A. Burrell', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Roy A. Burrell-District 2
La. State Representative

cc: Senator Greg Tarver
Providence
Franklin Industries
LDOTD