

**TIME Magazine**  
**Letter to the Editor**

Re: *The Threatening Storm*, Aug. 1, 2007.

While “Many scientists argue that it’s dangerous to commit billions of dollars to protect middle of nowhere fishing towns...” the Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection System is being built to protect the communities and infrastructure within Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes in South Louisiana – which is home to over 200,000 people. We may not be Miami or New York City; but we are far from being just “middle of nowhere fishing towns”.

We are at the apex of energy production for the nation, providing over 25% of the nation’s energy supply; we have over 20,000 miles of oil and gas pipelines that provide heat and fuel to “important” places like New York City and Miami; we have the largest port system in the country; and we supply 40% of the fisheries in the lower 48 states. Without us, those “important places” would freeze in the winter, gas would be at \$10 a gallon, and shrimp and seafood would be too expensive for the run-of-the-mill New Yorker.

A levee system combined with coastal restoration will protect this critical infrastructure and enhance our ecosystems. In addition, as falsely indicated in the article, this critical levee system is not a pre-Katrina designed project as it is continuously undergoing design and engineering scrutiny throughout each phase of construction. If this \$900 million levee project is not authorized in WRDA and signed by the President, the country will once again pay a much greater price in years to come..... and, in the process, lose a national resource, culture and environment that are arguably as “important” as New York City and Miami.

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