



June 18, 2013

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Chair of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council  
United States Department of Commerce  
Attn: Teresa Christopher  
Senior Advisor for Gulf Restoration  
1401 Constitution Ave  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ms. Christopher:

Recognizing the importance of working together, not as silos of government but as partners for full restoration, Florida has taken a unique and collaborative approach in its implementation of the RESTORE Act. Last year, Florida's 23 Gulf Coast counties formally executed a partnership to establish the Gulf Consortium and develop the State Expenditure Plan (Impact Allocation Component). Through a Memorandum of Understanding, the Gulf Consortium will also be working with the State of Florida and its many agencies to ensure that as projects and programs are reviewed for the State Expenditure Plan, they meet not only local needs but also regional, state and federal objectives and requirements.

According to the Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan, the Gulf Consortium's State Expenditure Plan must be consistent with the plan's goals and objectives. To further consistency and collaboration, the Gulf Consortium is requesting an extension from the Department of Commerce to the deadline for comments to the Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan. An extension will allow the Gulf Consortium to coordinate with its 23 coastal member counties at its next public meeting scheduled for June 28, 2013, and provide its collective comments to the Gulf Ecosystem Restoration Council. July 12, 2013 is the requested extension date.

The Gulf Consortium is fully supportive of the Council and is ready to participate in the planning at all levels. Favorable consideration of this request for extension will ensure public participation and is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grover Robinson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Grover Robinson, Chairman  
Gulf Consortium

cc: Gulf Consortium Members  
Mr. Chris Holley, Executive Director, Florida Association of Counties  
Mr. Douglas Darling, Interim Manager, Gulf Consortium  
Ms. Sarah Bleakley, Interim General Counsel, Gulf Consortium