

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite  
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G St. NW  
Washington, DC 20314

Nov. 21, 2017

Dear General Semonite,

As Ranking Member of the House Committee on Natural Resources, I am concerned about the risks associated with the construction and operation of the Bayou Bridge Pipeline. I urge the US Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. This is a minimal but essential step to ensure that the state of Louisiana and the public are aware of the potential impacts - and indeed grave threats - that this project poses to the people of Louisiana, who have expressed major concerns about the impact this pipeline will have on their lives and livelihoods.

The proposed route of the 162-mile Bayou Bridge Pipeline will cross 11 Louisiana parishes and more than 700 bodies of water, including several that are essential drinking water sources for hundreds of thousands of residents. Energy Transfer Partners (ETP), a company known to have committed environmental and other legal violations during the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, is the majority owner of this project. Given ETP's conduct, it is critical that the Bayou Bridge project is evaluated with a great deal of care and scrutiny. For reference, some of ETP's recent violations include:

- A five-million-gallon drilling fluid spill during construction of the Rover Pipeline in Ohio, destroying 500,000 acres of wetlands.
- Incurring \$2.3 million in fines from the Ohio EPA stemming from environmental damage during Rover Pipeline construction that, to this day, ETP refuses to pay.
- Illegal use of toxic diesel fuel while drilling in sensitive Ohio wetlands.
- Contaminating drinking water and permanently damaging residential wells during construction of the Mariner East II Pipeline in Pennsylvania.
- Violation of a court agreement by disregarding permit conditions for the Mariner East II Pipeline in Pennsylvania.
- Falsification of permit information and illegal destruction of a designated historic site in Ohio.
- Three separate oil spills during the initial operating months of the Dakota Access Pipeline.
- Spilling gasoline into the Ann Arbor, Mich., drinking water intake during construction of the Rover Pipeline.

I am concerned that there is not enough information to make a responsible decision on the Bayou Bridge Pipeline without further consideration of the following critical issues:

- Impacts of the proposed pipeline on wildlife, forests, and the crawfishing industry in the Atchafalaya Basin, exacerbated by ongoing unresolved issues regarding pipeline spoil banks along existing pipeline corridors.
- Impacts of a crude oil spill in Bayou LaFourche, a major source of drinking water for more than 300,000 Louisiana residents.
- Contributions of pipeline construction, spills, and climate disruption to coastal erosion.
- Health and safety impacts on the community of St. James, an environmental justice community at the terminus of the proposed pipeline that is already debilitated by industrial pollution.
- Possible disruption or reversal of ongoing restoration of the Atchafalaya Basin under the Louisiana Coastal Master Plan.

I am concerned that a cursory permitting process could result in protracted and expensive legal challenges of the kind now facing the Dakota Access Pipeline, which was approved based on insufficient environmental review.

Given economic, public health and safety concerns and the state of Louisiana's rapidly eroding coastline and sensitive wetlands, the only prudent path forward for the Bayou Bridge Pipeline includes a thorough Environmental Impact Statement.

According to my colleague, Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-La.), who has already submitted a request for an EIS, the Army Corps is deferring to the judgement of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality with regards to the need for an EIS. It is imperative that you insist that the Army Corps perform its due diligence and conduct a thorough EIS for the Bayou Bridge Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.)  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources