

## Flahive, Katie

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**From:** marion freistadt <marionfreistadt@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:04 AM  
**To:** Flahive, Katie  
**Subject:** My comments to Gulf Hypoxia Task Force

### My comments to Gulf Hypoxia Task Force

Greetings to the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force:

Thank you for this opportunity to make public comments about the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic zone.

My concern is the climate crisis. It is now known that Hypoxic zones contribute to the climate crisis by increasing the amount Greenhouse Gases produced. Nitrous oxide and methane are produced in significant amounts.[1] Moreover, it's known that as climate change increases and the planet warms, hypoxia will increase. This is a potential positive feedback loop for climate, and thus extremely dangerous.

Moreover, the hypoxic dead zone is extremely detrimental to the shrimping and fishing industry.

Despite some progress, fertilizer pollution continues to increase. Anthropogenic nitrogen flows from the Mississippi river into the Gulf of Mexico Louisiana shelf at the rate of 60 Kg/second during peak times. This nitrogen is from fertilizer from our national "breadbasket." This must be stopped.

Our "breadbasket" actually is being used for ethanol for fuel and corn for feeding livestock, both of which are detrimental to climate. Ethanol, as a fuel, produces carbon dioxide, so is contributing to climate change, not helping.

The states from which the nitrogen flows have very powerful lobbies in Congress to not regulate fertilizer pollution.

The Clean Water Act is notoriously ineffective against nonpoint sources.

We need solutions:

1. The Clean water act must be strengthened to be effective against nonpoint sources.
2. Subsidies for Ethanol must be stopped.

It is critical that the \$60 million dedicated to this issue in the Infrastructure Bill be used effectively. The Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative should be funded as a long term solution. Stakeholders (upstream agricultural interests, shrimpers/fishers and community members) must all be engaged towards solutions.

Thank you

Marion "Penny" Freistadt, PhD, MBA

New Orleans

504-352-2142

[1] "Pelagic denitrification and methane oxidation in oxygen-depleted waters of the Louisiana shelf"

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10533-021-00778-8>