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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0103

August 6, 2013

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

STRATEGIC FORCES SUBCOMMITTEE

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HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Martin Dam Project (FERC No. 349-173)

Dear Secretary Bose:

I am writing to request that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission reconsider its initial decision to reject Alabama Power Company's proposal to increase and improve recreational opportunities at Lake Martin by raising the pool elevation three feet in the winter and extending the summer pool elevation into the fall when water is available. These changes were requested by property and business owners around Lake Martin, and they were studied thoroughly during Alabama Power's relicensing process. With over 75% of Lake Martin and 677 miles of its shoreline in my district, I am fully aware of Lake Martin's importance to the east central part of Alabama. The proposals included in Alabama Power's application will have a dramatic economic effect on this region of the state and they will increase recreational opportunities and enjoyment on and around Lake Martin, without compromising flood control responsibilities downstream.

Almost 700 people attended FERC's July 17 public meeting to show their support for Alabama Power's proposal. This overwhelming turnout clearly demonstrates the importance of this issue to the Lake Martin community and the enormous positive impacts that will be realized with the winter pool increase and fall extension of the summer pool elevation.

Though FERC staff has preliminarily recommended rejecting the operations changes, I am hopeful that once FERC reviews all of the information and considers all of the benefits associated with Alabama Power's proposal, it will reverse its decision and approve the proposed changes at Lake Martin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Rogers".

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress