

Bob Janes
District One

January 17, 2005

Douglas R. St. Cerny
District Two

Mr. Robert K. Dawson, President
Dawson & Associates
1225 I Street, N.W., Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 2005

Ray Judah
District Three

Andrew W. Coy
District Four

Dear Bob,

John E. Albion
District Five

With the pilings being driven and the concrete for the footings being poured for the reconstruction of the badly deteriorated Sanibel Island Bridge and Causeway, I wanted to express the appreciation of Lee County for the outstanding performance of Dawson & Associates in expediting the necessary Coast Guard permit.

Donald D. Stilwell
County Manager

James G. Yaeger
County Attorney

It is rare that we have the opportunity to work with such a group of distinguished, professional men and women. Former Congressman Sonny Callahan, retired Corps of Engineers Chief Lt. Gen. Art Williams, former longtime career Federal executives, Mike Strachn, Joe Doddridge and Dick Sanderson as well as Janine Wilson and Danielle-Thomas-Pollard in your home office each played a vital role in making our permit quest a success under time-limiting conditions.

Diana M. Parker
County Hearing Examiner

By working both with the Legislative and Executive branches of the Federal Government in Washington and with Coast Guard detachment 7 in Miami, you enabled us to present our needs at the highest levels of the Coast Guard as well as to the action staffs of both Florida Senators. You also opened the doors to key officials of the legislative authorizing and appropriations committees and cut through potential positions of concern and delay in other regulatory bodies including EPA, FWS, and NMFS.

It was a powerful display of professional and political acumen!

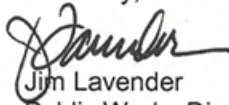
As a result, we had the permit issued and in hand on December 3, 2004, less than 5 months from the time we asked you to begin your efforts on our behalf. Even more significantly, Lee County was able to save several millions of dollars in our construction costs and bonding efforts and ensure that our citizens and many visitors will have the safe and secure access to the world class living and recreation opportunities that Sanibel and Captiva Islands have come to symbolize to the world.

The reconstructed bridge and causeway assures that human health and safety is increased markedly, hurricane evacuation is improved significantly, the environment will benefit from our mitigation measures, water passage for the sailing public is upgraded and recreation will be enhanced in all areas. It exemplifies the win-win situations we all strive for as public servants.

My colleagues, Scott Gilbertson, David Owen, and Paul Wingard join me in wishing you and your team all the best in your future endeavors. It was a pleasure and an insight into the workings of the Federal government to have you as a key part of our team.

We in Lee County look forward to working with you in the future should the need arise.

Sincerely,



Jim Lavender
Public Works Director

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Donald D. Stilwell, County Manager

H:\wpdocs\CORR\LAV\Letters\Sanibel\Dawson thank you ltr.doc

P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, Florida 33902-0398 (239) 335-2111

Internet address <http://www.lee-county.com>

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER