



# Parish of Ascension

**KENNY MATASSA**  
PARISH PRESIDENT

January 9, 2017

Dear Friend:

The March and August floods of 2016 were devastating to our communities. Our people lost so much—their homes, their cars, their peace of mind, and their dreams.

As we move forward with the recovery process, getting our people back into their homes is of the utmost importance. In the days and weeks after the flood, however, many of us began a conversation with our federal partners on the need for serious dialogue on a long range regional drainage solution.

Here in Ascension Parish, we have waited years for permitting on the Laurel Ridge Levee extension. Collectively, our area has waited decades on the Comite River project. These are just two examples, and I know you can recount even more.

The time to focus our efforts on a regional drainage solution is now. Our commerce, housing, transportation, and employment are more intertwined than ever. We must have a fresh assessment to comprehend fully the current flood plain and local drainage improvements. Common solutions that can reduce future impact of flooding events will keep the Capital Region strong.

I am asking that you join me in a collaborative conversation about our regional drainage needs. I am willing to host an initial roundtable discussion with our state and federal partners. Please contact Kemlyn Bailey-Lomas at (225) 450-1142 with your availability.

Together, we will find solutions and be advocates for our people.

Sincerely yours,

Kenny Matassa  
Ascension Parish President