

## Statements of Linda Morse-Robertson

At the Clarksburg meeting:

I introduced myself as NOT being from Clarksburg, but rather Bethel Island, and that we, on our island, are *pissed*. We are being forced out of our homes; out of our businesses and that we would fight TO THE DEATH against this debacle. I explained that I recognized that all the farmers in the north that depend on the water are going to lose their livelihoods and our island would lose theirs as well as we depend on the water to make our living, just in a different way.

I asked the Board how much each county was going to be paid for the easements that would have to be provided for the pipeline through all the south Delta islands... asked three times with no response. The only answer they had was "we are not sure IF that is going to happen".... I explained that we have seen many salt water species around our island, including jellyfish, flounders in Walnut Grove, and that seals are living there on a full time basis around our island the last two years. Why? The salinity is such that they CAN. That happened because of the additional pump that, thankfully, the Feds shut down....

I asked what gave them the right to overturn our vote of 1982. I asked what they expected me to tell clients when their fresh water boats started getting ruined by the constant state of salt water. I asked what was going to replace the income of all of us on the island from the professional fisherman who came from all over the world to fish for black bass because our Delta is that good as it stands now. While the farmers in Clarksburg depend on the water for their land for income, I depend on the water for my small commercial harbor. And all that fresh water entails... The end result will be the same; we are all out of business if they push the canal through. Even though it is compromised now, it has a chance of recovery as long as the pumps are kept turned off and no canal is built.

Despite the board rolling their eyes at the statement, I said that if I had to tell my clients, no swimming, sharks sighted, that the chance was indeed there if we were turned into a salt water marsh. I closed with the fight to the death statement again....

I was honored to be at that meeting with the great residents of Clarksburg, and I wear their shirt with pride. They are an impressive group!