



News Advisory From . . .

Congressman Rodney Alexander

5th Congressional District of Louisiana

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Contact: Adam Terry
202/225-8490

ALEXANDER DISCUSSES IMPORTANCE OF SPARTA WITH JOHANNNS

CONGRESSMAN VOICES CONCERNS OF SPARTA, BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, today announced that he has discussed the current water-quality problem facing North Louisiana residents and businesses with Mike Johanns, secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Alexander, who sits on the Appropriations Committee, is currently searching for federal dollars to help study and address the current concerns of the Sparta Aquifer and North Louisiana's groundwater supply.

"This issue is something that I've brought to the attention of Secretary Johanns, and I plan to work tirelessly toward bringing home federal dollars, so that we can save the Sparta Aquifer and preserve the jobs and businesses that rely on it," Alexander said.

"I realize that this issue is sensitive to many businesses and to residents, but without a stable groundwater supply for the next generation, we are ultimately shortchanging businesses and consumers."

Within the last month, Alexander has made a point to meet and talk with local elected officials including: U.S. Rep. Mike Ross, D-Arkansas, state Sen. Bob Kostelka, state Reps. Rick Gallot, Jim Fannin, Hollis Downs, Ruston Mayor Dan Hollingsworth, West Monroe Mayor Dave Norris and Lincoln Parish Police Juror Mickey Mays.

"It will take a concerted effort to save the Sparta and preserve our jobs," Alexander added.

"That is why I'm open to suggestions from federal, state and local officials. Right now, my number one priority is bringing federal funding home so that we can address this issue. This is the reason why I personally met with Secretary Johanns and alerted him to this concern."

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