

Good evening,

My name is Albert Naquin. I have served as the Traditional Chief of the Isle de Jean Charles Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Tribe since 1997. I am here tonight because I want to share my questions and concerns about the sale of the Dupont Corporation camp site properties on IDJC.

As everyone here should know, IDJC has been threatened with flooding due to a changing climate. As Chief of our Tribe, I led the effort to create a resettlement plan for our people, so our Tribe could remain together, even though we had to move from the IDJC that has been our home since 1835. We have been called the first climate refugees. When the resettlement plan was approved and funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, we agreed to it based on our understanding that part of the agreement was that IDJC would be left to nature, meaning no improvements or services would be provided to IDJC over time, and it would ultimately be consumed by water. This includes our roads, our homes and our historic burial sites. Also, Road Home when they bought out residents, the property had to go green, nothing could be built, just let Mother Nature take over.

However, now that the resettlement has been funded, we see improvements being made to our Island Roads and fishing piers with parking were built. Our school was recently shut down – we were told it didn't make sense to keep it open. We recently learned that our school is being sold to a sporting organization. It seems IDJC is slated to become a recreational sporting island.

I am here tonight because the Dupont land is being sold as camp sites. This is profoundly unsettling. Our Tribe was strongly encouraged to leave our homes, and we were told that, if we stayed, we'd have no help or services there. Now, we're finding out that the land is being repurposed, and seemingly redeveloped for private recreational use.

By the way, the state highjacked our resettlement and all the documents from the resettlement has been removed from the state website. It was a tribal resettlement and now there is no mention of the tribe.

I came here to let the Parish and others know that our Tribe has serious concerns about these actions, and that we plan to look deeper into the legality and legitimacy of what's happening on IDJC.



Albert P. Naquin 7/15/2021