

March 27, 2003

The Honorable David Hobson  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Appropriations  
2362 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development Appropriations  
2362 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hobson and Ranking Member Visclosky,

I am writing to request your support for flood control projects affecting Harris County in the FY2004 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

My highest priority is obtaining \$100,000 for the Buffalo Bayou watershed in Houston, Texas. This project would look at improving water flow in the bayou from the Addicks and Barker Detention Reservoirs, and providing for any additional run off resulting from the expansion of Interstate 10, which bisects my district. The Buffalo Bayou watershed encompasses 360 square miles in Harris County, almost entirely in my district. The study is limited to the main stem of the bayou, from the Turning Basin to the Barker Reservoir. Ecosystem restoration will also be considered as part of the project.

My second highest priority is obtaining \$6 million for the Brays Bayou Section 211(f) flood control project. As you may know, the city of Houston was hit hard by Tropical Storm Allison in June of 2001. The Brays Bayou runs directly underneath the Texas Medical Center, which was devastated by Tropical Storm Allison. The storm destroyed world-class research, forced doctors and patients to seek shelter, and ultimately left \$2 billion worth of damage in the medical center alone. This project includes 3.7 miles of stream improvements, 3 detention basins, 7 miles of steam diversion channels, and recreation features.

I am also requesting \$575,000 to finish the feasibility study for the White Oak Bayou Section 211(f) flood control project. The White Oak Bayou watershed spans 110 miles in northwest Harris County. The Harris County Flood Control District plans to build 10

miles of grass lined channel enlargement and a grass lined bypass channel. Additionally, there will be 6 detention basins, covering 330 surface acres and 2,400 acre-feet of storage. Aesthetic features, environmental quality features, and recreational opportunities are also being considered.

Thank for you consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

John Culberson  
Member of Congress