

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 20, 2015

Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Major General Donald Jackson
Deputy Commander for Civil Works and Emergency Operations
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20314

Dear General Jackson and Secretary Darcy,

We are writing in strong support of the Coastal Texas Feasibility study. This study was first authorized under the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 and we believe it is crucial to identifying projects necessary to protect the Texas coast from tropical storms and hurricanes. Because of the complexities of this study, we understand the study will exceed three years and \$6 million, which will require an exemption as required by section 1001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. Because of the significance of this study to the future of the State of Texas, we request your support in an expedited review and approval of exemption proposal so the feasibility study can be initiated prior to the end of calendar year 2015.

There are currently 6.1 million people living in Texas coastal counties. The Texas coast is home to three of the busiest ports in the United States with over \$250 billion in goods exported from Texas ports each year. A closure of the Port of Houston costs the economy over \$300 million *per day*. With 26 Texas refineries, coastal counties also represent more than twenty five percent of the nation's total refining capacity. A natural disaster in Texas doesn't just impact the Texas coast; it can impact the entire country.

In 2008 Hurricane Ike made its final landfall when it struck Galveston, Texas. Before it was finished, Ike was responsible for the deaths of nearly 200 people. The coastal infrastructure was not up to the task of fighting the storm surge which caused \$38 billion in damages. If the surge had been a few inches higher many of the levees protecting the area's refineries would have been breached. Ike struck a few days after the collapse of Lehman Brothers; had the levees not held the economic impact to the entire nation could have been catastrophic.

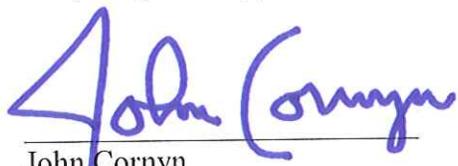
This study will proactively prepare the nation to ensure future catastrophes like Hurricanes Katrina and Ike does not happen in the future along the Texas coast. It is clear the resulting projects are essential to the country's economy, national security and

the safety of millions of residents. We hope to see the waiver approved in order to protect this important section of our country.

If you or your staff has questions, please do not hesitate to contact Melissa Kelly in Rep. Pete Olson's office at 202-225-5951.

Thank you for your timely consideration.

Very respectfully,



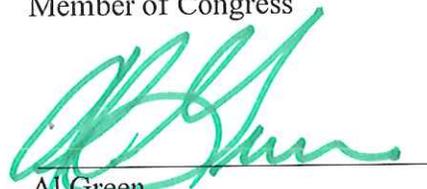
John Cornyn
Senator



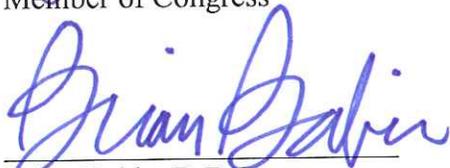
Pete Olson
Member of Congress



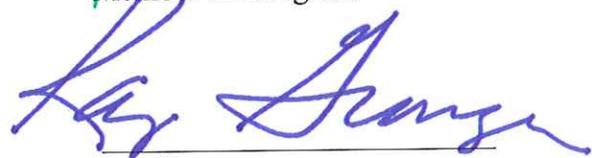
Chairman Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress



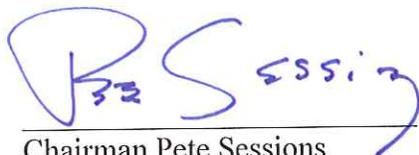
Al Green
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S
Member of Congress



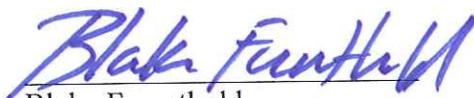
Kay Granger
Member of Congress



Chairman Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress



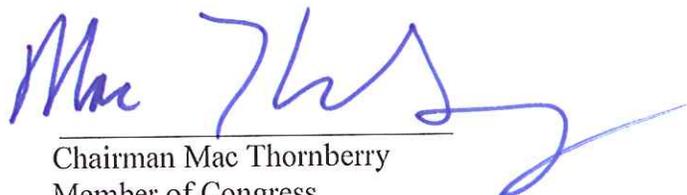
Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



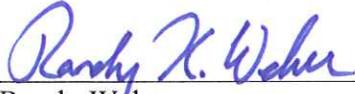
Gene Green
Member of Congress



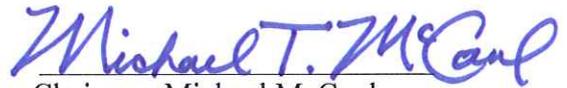
John Culberson
Member of Congress



Chairman Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



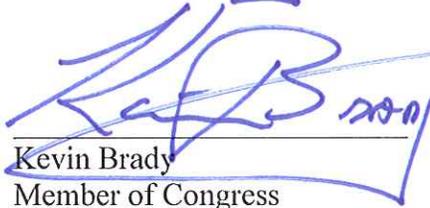
Chairman Michael McCaul
Member of Congress



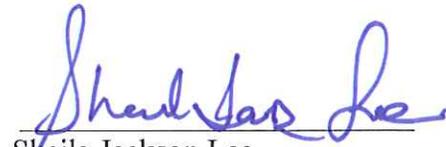
Chairman Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



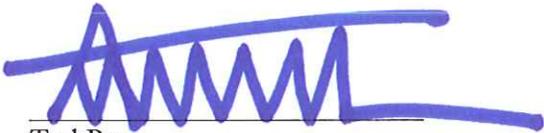
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



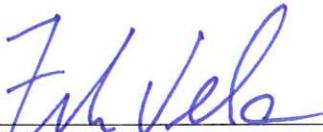
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Will Hurd
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



John Carter
Member of Congress



Chairman Lamar Smith
Member of Congress