

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



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April 18, 2002

The Honorable Joe Skeen
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior
House Appropriations Committee
B 308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Skeen:

I am respectfully requesting \$2,500,000 in the form of a Save America's Treasures grant to the Battleship Texas Foundation in this year's Interior Appropriations bill. The mission of the Battleship Texas Foundation is to support the restoration, enhancement, and educational value of the Battleship Texas. This funding will go toward improving the grounds surrounding the Battleship Texas as well as building an interpretive center while the ship is in dry-dock undergoing repairs. These changes will make the Battleship Texas a more attractive and accessible tourist site to all Americans.

The Battleship Texas was commissioned in 1914 and served with honor during World War I and World War II. In 1916, Texas became the first U.S. battleship to mount anti-aircraft guns and the first to control gunfire with directors and range-keepers, analog forerunners of today's computers. In 1919, Texas became the first U.S. battleship to launch an aircraft. After being decommissioned in 1948, the Battleship Texas became the first battleship memorial museum in the U.S. That same year, on the anniversary of Texas Independence, the battleship was presented to the State of Texas and commissioned as the flagship of the Texas Navy. The Battleship Texas is now permanently anchored on the Buffalo Bayou and the busy Houston Ship Channel at the historic site of the San Jacinto battleground.

This funding will ensure the further preservation of this national treasure. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Culberson".

John Culberson
Member of Congress

A handwritten note in black ink that says "Thank you Joe!" with a flourish at the end.