



December 22, 2020

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Port of Houston Ship Channel Expansion Channel Improvement Project

Dear Mr. President:

We are collectively writing to express our unequivocal support for the Houston Ship Channel Expansion Channel Improvement Project (HSC ECIP) and ask that you provide the necessary new start designation and corresponding federal funding for the initial work package to begin construction on this critical infrastructure project. The initial funding request is for \$19.5 million in 2021 with lesser amounts planned to be requested in 2022 and 2023. This project underwent several years of review through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) rigorous feasibility study process and has been congressionally authorized in the recently passed Water Resources Development Act of 2020. To expeditiously realize the economic benefits provided by the HSC ECIP, particularly during a time of economic downturn, we respectfully request due consideration of including this project in the annual USACE Work Plan with discretionary funds made available in the Omnibus Spending Package of 2020.

The Port of Houston is ranked 1st in the nation in commercial tonnage, and the 52-mile long channel supports the 220+ members of the Greater Houston Port Bureau whose operations rely on the transit of fertilizers, petroleum, organic chemicals, iron and steel, machinery, plastic, vehicles, and containerized cargo. The expeditious completion of the HSC ECIP would greatly improve the safety and efficiency of channel operations by enabling continued safe two-way vessel traffic through bend easing, larger turning basins and barge lanes, and a wider and deeper channel. These improvements are critically important to the members of the Greater Houston Port Bureau.

While the Houston Ship Channel and the commerce that moves along it provide significant benefits for the national and regional economies and job markets, delivering these benefits can have a cost in terms of the environment, wildlife, or the air around us. The Port of Houston Authority, in cooperation with the members of the Greater Houston Port Bureau, is committed to building on its tradition of environmental stewardship and the successful program of beneficial use of dredged material. The Port of Houston Authority will continue working with its partners to ensure that the HSC ECIP provides significant environmental benefits to wildlife, water quality, and regional air quality.

The Houston Ship Channel provides over \$800 billion in annual economic value and 3.2 million direct and indirect jobs to our nation, including nearly \$340 billion in annual economic value and 1.35

million direct and indirect jobs to the state of Texas. Investing in our nation's infrastructure is an important first step in recovering from the global COVID-19 pandemic and the energy and economic crisis. The HSC ECIP is at the epicenter of our recovery process.

Designating a construction new start for the HSC ECIP and providing the corresponding \$19.5 million in federal funding is an incredible opportunity to invest in a national transportation asset that would allow our companies to significantly increase operations and help get our nation on the road to recovery.

To continue the dialog with any of the below signed industry leaders about the importance of the expansion project to current and future safety and commerce, please contact CAPT Bill Diehl (USCG), Ret., P.E. at (713) 678-4300 or bdiehl@txgulf.org.

Thank you for your personal attention to this matter on behalf of the people and the businesses of the Greater Houston Port Bureau.

Best regards,



Vinny Pilegge
Chairman, Greater Houston Port Bureau
President
Manchester Terminal, LLC



Bernt Netland
1st Vice Chairman, Greater Houston Port Bureau
President & CEO
Intercontinental Terminals Co. LLC



Vincent J. Di Cosimo
2nd Vice Chairman, Greater Houston Port Bureau
Senior VP – Petroleum Logistics
Targa Resources



Roger Guenther
Executive Director
Port Houston



Katherine Trauth
General Manager, Shipping & Maritime – Americas
Shell Trading (US) Company



Robert Sanders
Senior Vice President, Asset Optimization
Enterprise Products Partners L.P.



Lance Nunez
Global Modal Tech Leader, NA Bulk Marine
Operations Leader
The Dow Chemical Company



Matt Woodruff
Vice President of Public & Government Affairs
Kirby Corporation



Mickey Franco
Director, Terminal Services
Houston Fuel Oil Terminal Co.



Adam Smith
Senior VP Operations
BWC Terminals



Gareth Williams
President
Odfjell USA (Houston) Inc.



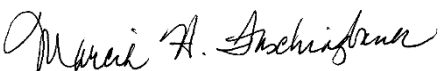
Kelly Richardson
President
Richardson Stevedoring & Logistics



Capt. Robert Thompson
Presiding Officer
Houston Pilots



Richard Bertrand
Business Director
Stolt Tanker Trading



Marcia Faschingbauer
Chief Executive Officer
Excargo Services Inc.

Mark Jacobs
President
Houston Capital Corporation

James A. Black
President/CEO
Moran Shipping Agencies, Inc.

Robert H. Blades
President
Blades International, Inc.

David C. Weston
Area Manager
HDR, Inc.

Ernie Farrand
Vice President, Operations
Watco Companies, Greens Port
Industrial Park

Kirk Jackson
President
Suderman & Young Towing Co.

Karl Schröder
Vice President - Operations
Schröder Marine Services

Tom Marian
General Counsel
Buffalo Marine Service, Inc.

Jamie Sylvester
Shareholder
Briggs and Veselka Co.

Todd Stewart
President
Gulf Winds International, Inc.

John Taylor
Secretary
Houston Mooring Company

CC: Members of the Houston-area Congressional Delegation
Director Russ Voight, Office of Management and Budget
Secretary Dan Brouillette, Department of Energy
Secretary Wilbur Ross, Department of Commerce
Director Larry Kudlow, National Economic Council
Assistant Secretary R.D. James, U.S. Army (Civil Works)
LTG Scott Spellmon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers