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March 27, 2003⁴

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 three projects in the FY2005 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

First, I would like to thank you for your assistance with the Harris Gully project in the FY2004 Energy and Water bill. With your help, this project was placed on the fast track to ensure that the Texas Medical Center will never experience devastation like the flooding of Tropical Storm Allison in 2001. As you remember, the Medical Center - which is the medical and economic nucleus of Houston - was inaccessible for several hours during Allison and suffered nearly \$3 billion of damage. Harris Gully runs underneath the Texas Medical Center, as well as Rice University, and is the primary drainage system for that area. However, it has failed to keep pace with Houston's rapid the development, as evidenced by Allison. This year I am requesting \$800,000 to continue the Harris Gully feasibility study in Houston, Texas.

My other request is for \$300,000 for the Buffalo Bayou watershed in Houston, Texas. This project would continue improving water flow in the bayou from the Addicks and Barker Detention Reservoirs, and accommodating 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.

Finally, my very top appropriations request for FY2005 is the Alliance for Nanohealth in Houston, Texas. I believe this collaboration, between University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Rice University, MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Houston, and Baylor College of Medicine, will develop into the world's leading center for nanobiology and nanomedicine. This integrated program will support projects involving medical imaging, diagnostics, pharmaceuticals, and implants using nanotechnology. One of the initial projects will be creating a state-of-the-art clean room on the University of Houston's campus. The clean room will serve researchers from all the institutions in fabricating and studying unique materials that require nanoscale assembly at interactive surfaces. I am requesting \$4 million from the Office of Science Biological and Environmental Research account for the Alliance for Nanohealth. Should this request be filled, the funding will be leveraged by state and private contributions. This is my first energy related request since I have been in Congress, and I respectfully ask for your essential support in fulfilling it.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,

John Culberson
Member of Congress