

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 29, 2012

Col. Christopher W. Sallèse
District Engineer/Commanding Officer
USACE Galveston District
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, TX 77553-1229

Re: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit application SWG-2011-01183

Dear Col. Sallèse:

We are writing to give our full support for the Port of Houston's permit to widen and deepen the existing Bayport Ship Channel.

The Port of Houston's plan to expand the Bayport Ship Channel is a direct response to the increased size of the modern ships currently in use. While several of these larger ships already have called at the Port of Houston, modernizing the Bayport Ship Channel improves safety and reduces the need for navigational restrictions.

The expansion of the Bayport Ship Channel benefits the surrounding communities and the environment. Allowing larger ships, which carry a higher volume of cargo, reduces the number of ships traversing the waters of the Houston Ship Channel. Additionally, these vessels are newer, with more efficient engines and greater maneuverability. This reduction of ship traffic, along with a reduced demand for tugboat assistance, results in fewer emissions and reduces the environmental impact to the region.

The Houston Ship Channel is a wise investment of federal money. It generates \$498 billion in economic activity and sustains 2.1 million jobs annually. It is imperative that the Corps of Engineers continue to invest in the maintenance of the Port of Houston to support the growth of American trade. The Bayport Ship Channel expansion is critical to ensuring that the Port of Houston remains a competitive port of entry for goods from around the world.

It is imperative that the Corps of Engineers fully considers all of the input provided by the public and other stakeholders, including industry, local businesses, and the surrounding communities, affected by the project. We ask that you continue to work closely with these stakeholders to facilitate a final determination of the dredge material disposal site.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project with a positive impact on Houston, the state of Texas, and the nation as a whole. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need any additional information.

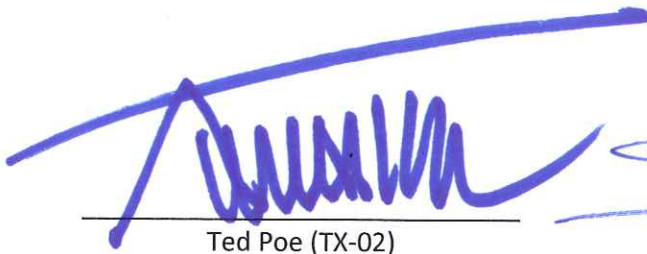
Very respectfully,



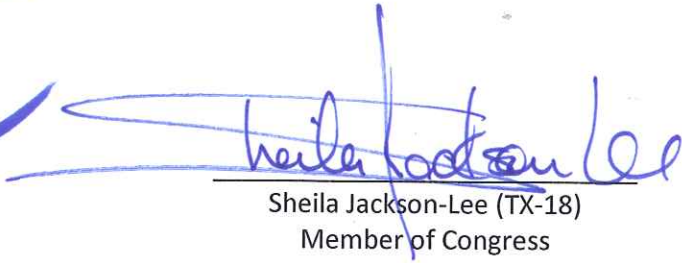
Pete Olson (TX-22)
Member of Congress



Gene Green (TX-29)
Member of Congress



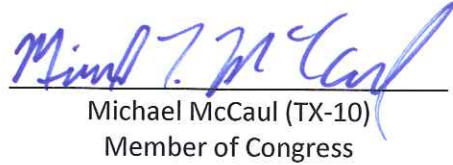
Ted Poe (TX-02)
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18)
Member of Congress



Al Green (TX-09)
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul (TX-10)
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady (TX-08)
Member of Congress



John A. Culberson (TX-07)
Member of Congress



Ron Paul (TX-14)
Member of Congress