



RANDY WEBER
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT, TEXAS

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Fleischmann, and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2024 (FY24) Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies appropriations bill, I am respectfully requesting \$100,000,000 in FY24 funding for the Coastal Texas Study in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Texas General Land Office, located at 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701.

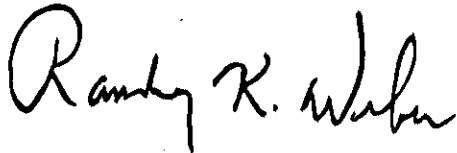
The funding would be used for the pre-construction engineering and design (PED) phase of the Coastal Texas Study, a program designed to reduce risks to public health and the economy, to restore critical ecosystems, and to advance coastal resiliency. The project is a collaboration of several large-scale coastal storm risk management (CSRM) and ecosystem restoration (ER) projects that will work in concert to create multiple lines of defense for the Texas coast.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds. When coastal storms damage homes, businesses, industry, infrastructure, and the natural environments of the Texas coast, the immediate fallout and continued aftermath affect not only the people who live in these coastal communities, but also the entire nation. The Houston Ship Channel, which traverses this area, contributes more than \$800 billion to the U.S. economy and is a vital link to commerce worldwide. Hurricane Ike (2008) resulted in an estimated \$37.5 billion in economic damages, and Hurricane Harvey (2017) caused an estimated \$125 billion. It is imperative that the Texas coast be protected from tropical disturbances for the good of the nation as a whole.

The federal nexus for this project is for purposes authorized by H.R 7776 / Division H- Water Resources/ Title LXXXI – Water Resources Development Act of 2022 / Subtitle D Sec. 8401 / (4) / 1. Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy K. Weber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

RANDY K. WEBER
United States Representative