

BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.

36TH DISTRICT, TEXAS
BABIN.HOUSE.GOV

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BORDER SECURITY CAUCUS
CO-CHAIRMAN

SPACE FORCE CAUCUS
CO-CHAIRMAN

PRO-LIFE CAUCUS

MILITARY VETS CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4336

2236 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1555

203 IVY AVENUE, SUITE 600
DEER PARK, TX 77536
(832) 780-0966

769 S. MAIN STREET, SUITE 301
LUMBERTON, TX 77657
(409) 883-8075

100 W. BLUFF DRIVE
WOODVILLE, TX 75979
(409) 331-8066

2004 N. CLEVELAND STREET
DAYTON, TX 77535
(832) 780-0966

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for UH Clear Lake Aerospace Engineering Workforce Training Development in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Houston Clear Lake, located at 2700 Bay Area Boulevard, Houston, TX 77058. The funding would be used to support the infrastructure needs of the Aerospace Engineering Bachelor of Science (AE) program. UHCL's AE program is housed in the existing 121,000-square-foot STEM and Classroom Building, which features 13 faculty research labs, 15 teaching labs, a 100-seat tiered lecture hall, and an astronomy observation deck. Currently, the facility lacks the essential spaces and equipment to integrate the classroom and laboratory experiences that will prepare students for professional practice in aerospace engineering and related fields. To address this, UHCL is looking to add four labs in the existing STEM building: Aerodynamics, Structure, Materials & Composites, Propulsion, Vibration & Control. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because prior to UHCL's launch of its aerospace engineering program last fall, only five Texas universities provided a BS in AE, with the closest being over 100 miles away from NASA's Johnson Space Center, the Houston Spaceport, and numerous aerospace companies in the Houston area. This distance meant JSC and its surrounding support industries were often struggling to fill internship slots and were forced to recruit far from the 36th Congressional District of Texas.

The most recent Texas Workforce Commission long-term projections show that employment of aerospace engineers in Texas is expected to increase by 38.5% from 2022 to 2032, compared with a 6.1% national increase over the same period.

UHCL's newly launched Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering provides students with the skills and experiences related to the design and sustained functioning of aircraft and spacecraft, all within the 36th District.

Upon completion of the degree, graduates possess a working knowledge of aerodynamics, control system design, incompressible fluid dynamics, solid and fluid mechanics, and thermodynamics. To further their education, UHCL graduates will also have the opportunity to be accepted to the AE Master of Science program at the University of Houston.

The AE program supports the UHS goal of remaining nationally competitive and an engine of economic and community advancement for aerospace engineering, which is critical to the aeronautical and astronautical industries in the 36th District.

UHCL strives to offer transformative opportunities for students while also meeting the evolving needs of industry and community who benefit from a pipeline of skilled graduates prepared in high-demand fields such as aerospace engineering.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5). 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, appearing to read "Brian Babin", is written over a vertical line that extends from the signature down to the typed name below.

Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress