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December 18, 2018

Col. Lars N. Zetterstrom, P.E.
District Engineer, Galveston District
United States Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, TX 77553-1229

Dear Colonel Zetterstrom,

A coastal barrier storm surge suppression system along the upper Texas coastline is a national security and economic protection priority project. I applaud the extensive work by the U.S. Corps of Engineers on the Texas Coastal Study and a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) that identifies a coastal barrier system as the best option for protecting the upper Texas coastline from devastation caused by hurricane storm surge.

The TSP is a complicated proposal that requires thorough examination and understanding by citizens ultimately impacted by the design and by the taxpayers who will pay for the construction, maintenance and operation. Understandably, the TSP has generated tremendous discussion and interest. The Corps' estimates indicate impressive public meeting attendance in Galveston and Bolivar Peninsula (350 persons in Galveston and well over 250 people in Bolivar).

The hundreds of citizens attending these public meetings reveals strong evidence of the high levels of unease and apprehension held towards the plan as currently proposed and understood by the public. In fact, due to fire safety restrictions, security officers had to stop letting people into the Crenshaw Elementary School location for the Bolivar Peninsula event. Significant concerns have been expressed by Galveston and Bolivar Peninsula businesses and residents with the proposed plan. There are growing questions and anxiety over the proposed ring levee on Galveston Island as well as the nature and placement of the barrier running adjacent to and north of state Highway 87 on Bolivar Peninsula and FM 3005 on Galveston's West End.

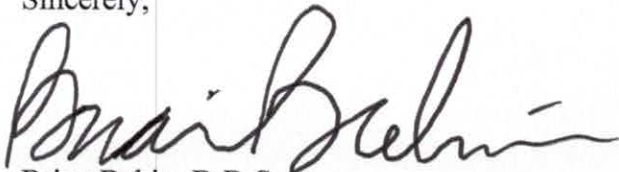
With large numbers of people in attendance and verbal public comment limited to one (1) minute, I am very concerned the comment period closing on January 9, 2019, presents limited opportunities for the public to adequately express their concerns with a level specificity that will truly be helpful to the Corps. For example, the Seabrook public meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2018, provides my constituents an opportunity to hear the Corps presentation,

understand the complexities of the proposal, and submit written comments with just three (3) weeks prior to the closing date and during the busy holiday season.

A priority for the Corps should be providing adequate time for citizens to digest TSP details and submit thoughtful written comments, substantive public input will assist the Corps with developing modifications that will ensure a storm surge suppression system plan design that best fits into the economic, environmental, social and recreational character of our coastal communities. Given the complexity of the TSP, I strongly urge the Corps to ensure the public has ample opportunity to provide greater input by extending the public comment period by thirty (30) days until February 9, 2019.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Babin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian Babin, D.D.S.
United States Representative
36th Congressional District