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March 20, 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 the Operations and Maintenance of the Houston Ship Channel Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The funding would be used to ensure the Houston Ship Channel is maintained to its authorized width and depth for safe, efficient vessel transit. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Houston Ship Channel is the busiest deep-draft waterway in the country, with as many annual ship calls as three of the largest American ports combined. It has more than 200,000 barge movements annually. Each year, the Houston Ship Channel generates more than \$906 billion in national economic impact and provides \$62.8 billion in tax revenue. Its cargo and job opportunities touch every congressional district in the country. Of the more than 3.4 million American jobs supported and generated by the Channel, more than 75% are in communities with poverty rates above the national average, providing access to economic growth to millions of Americans.

Maintenance of Federal channels to a depth of 55 feet is the sole responsibility of the Federal government through the US Army Corps of Engineers. The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1117 of WRDA 2024 [138 Stat. 3012]. I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



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