

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 13, 2021

Mr. Russ Vought  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Vought,

Thank you for your continued leadership at the Office of Management Budget (OMB). As you know, Congress recently authorized the Houston Ship Channel (HSC) project in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020. The HSC is the number one U.S. Port in waterborne tonnage and is critical to Texas and the U.S. economy.

This project will build upon this Administration's commitment to American energy dominance and improve one of the nation's best economic assets. As OMB formulates the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) workplan, we urge you give full and fair consideration that the HSC project receives a New Construction Start designation.

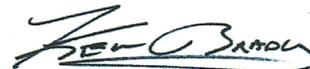
Through increasing trade and updating our ports, the U.S. is able to sell American products throughout the world which bolsters our global position and enhances our national security. According to the Port of Houston Authority (PHA), the finished HSC project will add jobs and increase revenue, on top of already supporting three million American workers and \$802 million in U.S. economic value. The PHA plans to construct up to four phases of a six-phase project using non-federal dollars – serving as a model for other major public-private partnerships that aim to improve America's infrastructure. A New Start designation is the final piece that will complete the culmination of private funding with federal investment, driving the largest total and net economic benefits of any Army Corps projects in consideration.

As a delegation representing the Port of Houston and its associated stakeholders, the State of Texas, and our country, we support the New Start designation to allow this important opportunity to proceed. We stand ready in assisting you in making a decision that provides, by far, the biggest return on investment for our nation.

Sincerely,



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



Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress



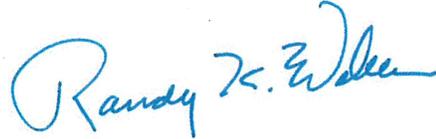
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