



The Honorable Greg Abbott
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

March 29, 2023

RE: LAKE HOUSTON SPILLWAY DAM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Dear Governor Abbott,

On behalf of our 1,000 member businesses that Partnership Lake Houston represents, I am pleading with you to continue to support the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project, which is being considered as part of Senate Bill 1, Article XI.

Our organization is comprised of mostly small and medium sized businesses in the Lake Houston area, many of which were directly impacted by the devastation of Hurricane Harvey – some of which never recovered. Over the last five years, Partnership Lake Houston, its members, our local government(s), non-profits and members of the community at large have worked tirelessly to find solutions to the chronic problem of flooding along the San Jacinto River as it enters the Lake Houston basin. We have fought for and helped secure funding for the dredging of the river channel and portions of the lake itself; participated in several studies that aim to tackle the multitude of contributing factors such as sedimentation deposits, the need for additional upstream detention reservoirs, and coordination of flood control efforts between Lake Conroe, controlled by the SJRA and Lake Houston, controlled by the City of Houston; and worked with our partners at the SJRA to continue seasonal lake lowering at Conroe. These measures have been helpful no doubt, though most have a long way to go and some are simply temporary. There is however, one project that will have immediate and lasting impact: the addition of flood control gates on the existing embankment of the Lake Houston Dam and Spillway.

The Dam Improvement Project is no small undertaking. The City of Houston has already secured \$48 million in federal dollars and has committed a local match of \$30 million. This project is simply too great and too important for our local community to be able to bear the burden alone. That is why state dollars are an absolute must for this project to get off the ground and bring a real solution to a problem that will not go away on its own. The addition of flood control gates will allow the City of Houston to quickly and safely move water out of the reservoir when significant weather events dictate. Additionally, once the gates are complete, the burdensome seasonal lowering of Lake Conroe will no longer be necessary as the two reservoirs will be able to work in tandem with each other to respond to critical situations. This project is a no-brainer.

As you well know, this organization has made numerous pleas to you in the past – pleas in which you have graciously responded to with positive effort. However, I must make one more request on behalf of our membership and our community that you continue to support us and the funding for this critical infrastructure project that is paramount for our vibrant community's future.

Sincerely,

Kyle Sheldon
President/CEO
Partnership Lake Houston