



# CITY OF HOUSTON

**Sylvester Turner**

Mayor

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August 5, 2016

The Honorable Larry Taylor  
Senator, State of Texas  
Co-Chair -- Texas Joint Interim Committee to Study a Coastal Barrier System  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Joe Deshotel  
Representative, State of Texas  
Co-Chair -- Texas Joint Interim Committee to Study a Coastal Barrier System  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Chairmen Taylor and Deshotel:

As Mayor of the City of Houston, a city which is home to a concentration of petrochemical plants along the Houston Ship Channel and the Port of Houston, one of the nation's busiest ports, as well as Clear Lake and other residential communities vulnerable to the threat of damaging storm surge from Gulf hurricane events, I fully endorse and support the current recommended alternatives and actions of the Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District, GCCPRD, as described in its recently released *Storm Surge Suppression Study – Phase 3 Report Recommended Actions*.

Providing multiple lines of defense against storm surge, including a comprehensive system of barriers and gates extending along Galveston Island and the Bolivar Peninsula to create a "coastal spine," would protect the economy, the environment, and most importantly, the people in the greater Houston region.

I look forward to advancing this effort with my colleagues on the Houston City Council and pledge my support to you and your Interim Committee as you continue to evaluate this important issue affecting the State of Texas. Please let me know if I can assist your efforts in any way and thank you for your leadership!

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner  
Mayor

cc:

Governor Greg Abbott

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick

Speaker of the House Joe Straus

Land Commissioner George P. Bush

Sen. Sylvia Garcia

Rep. Wayne Faircloth

Rep. Dennis Paul

Rep. Ana Hernandez

Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District (GCCPRD)

Judge Robert Eckels, President

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett

Galveston County Judge Mark Henry

Brazoria County Judge L.M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr.

Chambers County Judge Jimmy Sylvia

Jefferson County Judge Jeff Branick

Orange County Judge Stephen Brint Carlton

Council Member Dave Martin

Council Member David Robinson

Dr. William Merrell, Texas A&M University at Galveston

Col. Len Waterworth (USA Ret.), Texas A&M University at Galveston

Dr. Phil Bedient, SSPEED Center

Jim Blackburn, SSPEED Center