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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4327

DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT

JUDICIARY

March 26, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUESTED

The Honorable RD James
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Room 3E446
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Lieutenant General Todd Semonite
Chief of Engineers
Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

**RE: Inclusion of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel Deepening and Widening in FY 2018
USACE Work Plan**

Dear Secretary James and General Semonite:

As representatives from a state that relies heavily on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to provide safe, navigable harbors and waterways, we understand and appreciate the work undertaken by the Corps in a time of constrained budgets. However, as you compose the Fiscal Year 2018 annual Corps Work Plan, we see an opportunity for the Corps to use additional discretionary funds provided by Congress in the Omnibus spending package to complement the \$32 million the Port of Corpus Christi accelerated to the Corps per the Project Partnership Agreement signed in September 2017. Providing sufficient funds in FY2018 would allow the Galveston District (SWG) to execute the first two contracts for the Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project (CIP).

Currently, the Port of Corpus Christi is our nation's 4th largest seaport by tonnage and the largest export port for U.S. produced crude oil and is on pace to become one of the largest exporters of liquefied natural gas by 2020. Since the first shipment of American crude exported in over 40 years sailed from Corpus Christi in 2015, the Port of Corpus Christi has emerged as the largest energy export port in the Nation. Nearly sixty percent (60%) of the U.S. produced crude oil sold overseas is exported from Corpus Christi. The completion of the CIP will allow larger and more supertankers and liquified natural gas (LNG) vessels to navigate the channel safely, affording American energy companies the ability to export more American energy to our allies and trading partners safely and competitively. The Port of Corpus Christi generates approximately \$20 billion in economic activity for the state of Texas, including nearly \$5 billion in personal income, as well as \$353 million in state and local taxes and 80,000 in port-related jobs.

Today nearly \$50 billion in industrial projects are underway in South Texas that rely on the Corpus Christi Ship Channel to move their products, creating tens of thousands of jobs and billions in additional economic output. Many of those new industrial projects include announced pipelines from Permian Basin to the Port of Corpus Christi designed to handle significant increases in U.S. oil and gas production, which will enhance U.S. energy dominance and our allies' energy security well into the future. Considered alongside the shipments of 5.6 million barrels of liquefied petroleum gas and 101 million barrels of petroleum products each year, those companies have helped the port become a net exporter of oil and gas, positioning it as a national gateway for global energy trade.

Funding the CIP is an opportunity to invest in a national transportation asset that would allow U.S. companies and the Port of Corpus Christi to significantly increase export capacity and help solidify the U.S. as a world energy leader. As the representative delegation, we are concerted in our request and thank you for your personal attention to this matter of importance to the people and businesses of Corpus Christi, the State of Texas, as well as the nation.

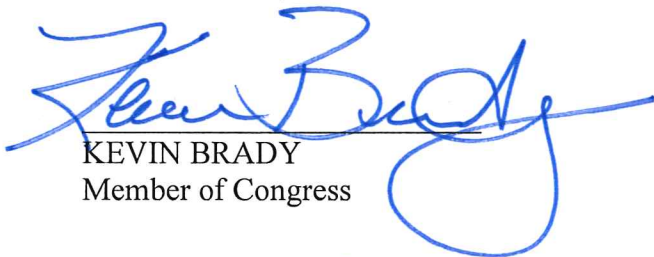
Respectfully,



BLAKE FARENTHOLD
Member of Congress



FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress



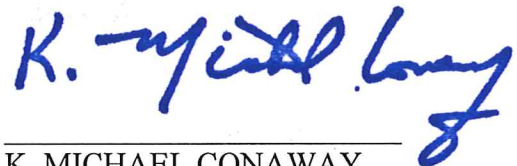
KEVIN BRADY
Member of Congress



LAMAR SMITH
Member of Congress



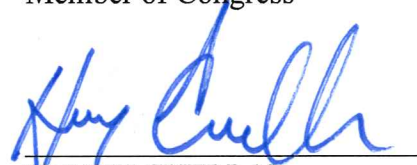
VICENTE GONZALEZ
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K. MICHAEL CONAWAY
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MAC THORNBERRY
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