



**The Legislature
State of Texas**

May 24, 2021

The Honorable George P. Bush
Commissioner
Texas General Land Office
1700 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: CDBG-MIT Funding in Harris County/City of Houston

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Commissioner Bush,

We write today regarding the General Land Office's decision in awarding the first \$1 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding for flood mitigation projects, none of which was allocated to Harris County, Harris County Flood Control or the City of Houston. Nearly four years after Hurricane Harvey, the storm that precipitated this federal aid, the GLO has left out the city and county most heavily impacted by the storm. As legislators, we find this decision disappointing and request that you and the General Land Office work to rectify this situation.

With the increased frequency of flood events in our already flood-prone region, effectively penalizing Houston and Harris County for their population size seems particularly unwise given the massive impact on life and livelihoods every large storm has on our area. For the state to not contribute to the local flood-control infrastructure amounts to a disappointing rebuff to the residents of Harris County who have proven willing to invest their own money to do so by the overwhelming passage of the \$2.5 billion flood bond in 2018.

We recognize there have been disagreements between local and state leaders on how to allocate various sets of federal funds around mitigation and recovery since Hurricane Harvey; however, no reasonable person could believe that the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development intended or even as envisioned a scenario where a county of 4.7 million people and the fourth largest city in the United States, after experiencing three consecutive years of flood disasters, would not receive any of this \$1 billion allotment of CDBG-MIT funds.

We are asking the General Land Office to address this issue and to reevaluate the process by which these funds are allocated to ensure federal funds reach these flood-damaged and flood-prone urban areas as soon as possible. We look forward to working with you and our other federal and local counterparts to help our community receive grant funds from this program.

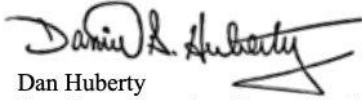
Sincerely,



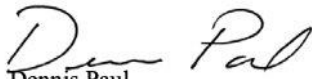
Jon Rosenthal
Chair, Harris County Texas House Delegation
State Representative, House District 135




Sam Harless
State Representative, House District 126



Dan Huberty
State Representative, House District 127



Dennis Paul
State Representative, House District 129



Tom Oliverson
State Representative, House District 130



Alma Allen
State Representative, House District 131



Jim Murphy
State Representative, House District 133



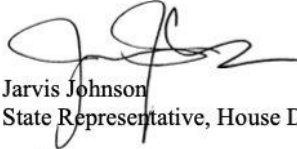
Ann Johnson
State Representative, House District 134



Gene Wu
State Representative, House District 137



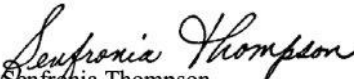
Lacey Hull
State Representative, House District 138



Jarvis Johnson
State Representative, House District 139



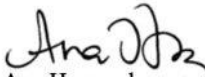
Armando Walle
State Representative, House District 140



Senfironia Thompson
State Representative, House District 141



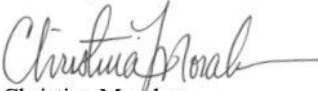
Harold Dutton
State Representative, House District 142



Ana Hernandez
State Representative, House District 143



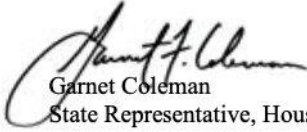
Mary Ann Perez
State Representative, House District 144




Christina Morales
State Representative, House District 145




Shawn Thierry
State Representative, House District 146



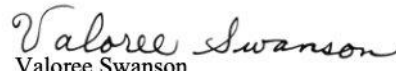
Garnet Coleman
State Representative, House District 147



Hubert Vo
State Representative, House District 149



Penny Morales Shaw
State Representative, House District 148



Valoree Swanson
State Representative, House District 150