



April 21, 2021

The Hon. Dennis Paul  
Texas House, District 129  
P.O. Box 2910, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78768

Re: HB3029

Dear Representative Paul:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Houston Stronger, I write in support of the bill you authored that will create the Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD). As you are so very aware, this is an extremely important bill for the storm protection and resiliency of the upper coast of Texas including Galveston Bay, the Houston Ship Channel as well as the shoreline industries and residential communities.

The GCPD will manage the projects identified in the Coastal Texas and Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay studies. These studies, led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in partnership with the Texas General Land Office, offer solutions for the increasing frequency and intensity of storm surge flooding on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Currently, there is no entity in Texas that has the authority to sign a project partnership agreement (PPA) for the projects in the Coastal Texas Study. To sign a PPA with the USACE (becoming the local partner) an entity must have the following: the ability to tax, eminent domain, and authority to sign a PPA. A local partner is required in order to receive federal funding for these improvements. The GCPD will meet the eligibility requirements for \$30 Billion in federal funds.

Houston Stronger, is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit that advocates for federal, state, and local funding to support flood resiliency around the Greater Houston region through collaborative engagement. Houston Stronger seeks to organize funding and support for flood resiliency plans that can be supported by its membership of business and community organizations, civic clubs, and individuals consistent with the Houston Stronger Regional Plan (2018), calling for \$58 billion for flood control projects to provide protection in every area in the Texas Gulf Coast Region (including the Texas Coastal Study).

We support HB3029 and thank you for your leadership on proposing this bill.

Sincerely,

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Houston Stronger