January 15, 2019

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

The widespread flooding, storm surges and high winds that resulted from Hurricane Harvey’s landfall (DR-4332) left many parts of the Texas coast paralyzed for months. Harvey leveled thousands of homes and businesses, altering many Texas communities forever. This disaster required a massive, coordinated response at the state, local and federal levels to help individuals restore their lives to normal as quickly as possible. Texas continues to rebuild through coordinated efforts at all levels of government and important work is underway to mitigate against future storms.

We – and the millions of Texas citizens we represent - remain thankful to the numerous federal agencies and first responders who coordinated and contributed resources and personnel. Shortly after the rains subsided, Congress swiftly acted by passing three separate disaster supplemental bills, including the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123), which contained over $15 billion dollars for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works projects.

Recent reports have indicated that your Administration is considering the use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funds, appropriated by Congress and intended for Hurricane Harvey recovery and mitigation efforts, in an effort to secure our southern border. We strongly support securing the border with additional federal resources including tactical infrastructure, technology, ports of entry improvements and personnel. However, we are strongly opposed to using funds appropriated by Congress for disaster relief and mitigation for Texas for any unintended purpose. As Texans continue to rebuild and prepare for future disasters, these funds, appropriated by Congress to be spent directly on rebuilding and mitigation, are critical to helping our communities recover, preventing future flooding and protecting our constituents. Thank you for your commitment to help Texas respond to Hurricane Harvey and to secure the southern border. We ask that you ensure necessary efforts on border security do not jeopardize long-term hurricane recovery and mitigation in Texas.

Sincerely,

GREG ABBOTT
Governor, State of Texas

JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator
TED CRUZ
United States Senator

MICHAEL MCCAUUL
Member of Congress

RANDY WEBER
Member of Congress

WILL HURD
Member of Congress

KEVIN BRADY
Member of Congress

PETE OLSON
Member of Congress

LANCE GOODEN
Member of Congress

BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

KENNY MARCHANT
Member of Congress

BILL FLORES
Member of Congress

DAN CRENSHAW
Member of Congress

LIZZIE FLETCHER
Member of Congress

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY
Member of Congress

ROGER WILLIAMS
Member of Congress