

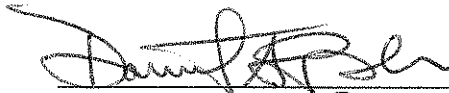
**Resolution in Support of the University of Houston's Requests for the  
American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan**

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The Greater Houston Partnership supports investments in the greater Houston region not only to create jobs in the short-term, but also to spur economic growth and competitiveness in the long-term.

The Partnership supports the University of Houston's requests for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan as it impacts the region in the following specific ways:

- **UH Requests are "Shovel-Ready":** They are ready to be implemented within two years, which, in the short-term, will provide work for construction companies, their sub-contractors, and suppliers (approximately 23 percent of which, at UH, will be historically underutilized businesses).
- **UH Requests have a Multiplier Effect:** Economists estimate that every \$10 million in research expenditures creates 334 new jobs, adds \$8.6 million in wages to the regional economy, draws \$500,000 in additional state revenue, and generates \$13.5 million in local sales.
- **UH Requests Invest in Houston's Renowned Energy and Medical Industries:** Houston is key to two of President Obama's highest priorities: energy and health care, which also constitute UH's two most important research areas.



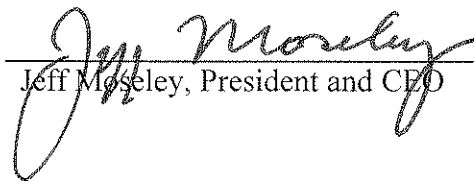
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Daniel G. Bellow, Chairman



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Patrick Oxford, Secretary



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Jeff Moseley, President and CEO

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** February 9, 2009

**FROM:** Sonia Perez, Chairman, Government Relations Advisory Committee

**SUBJECT:** Resolution in Support of the University of Houston's Requests for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan

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### RECOMMENDATION:

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- **UH Requests have a Multiplier Effect:** Economists estimate that every \$10 million in research expenditures creates 334 new jobs, adds \$8.6 million in wages to the regional economy, draws \$500,000 in additional state revenue, and generates \$13.5 million in local sales.
- **UH Requests Invest in Houston's Renowned Energy and Medical Industries:** Houston is key to two of President Obama's highest priorities: energy and healthcare, which also constitute the UH's two most important research areas.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The University of Houston is the third most productive public research university in the state. In FY 2000 total research expenditures were \$45 million. By 2008, they had risen to \$80 million.

In promoting his American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan, President Obama has indicated that the government's investments must not only create jobs in the short term, but must spur economic growth and competitiveness in the long term. Investments in the University of Houston can accomplish both ends. UH is the third-largest university in Texas and growing. Since the beginning of this decade, enrollment has increased by 12 percent, to a record high 36,104 students in the fall of 2008. (And, among these students, no single ethnic group constitutes a majority – UH is the most ethnically diverse research university in the nation). Likewise, UH is the third-most productive public research university in the state.

With so much growth, however, comes the challenge of developing facilities that are commensurate to the university's achievements and aspirations. Unfortunately, among Texas universities, UH also holds the distinction of possessing the largest space deficit in the state – enrollment growth and the expanding needs of researchers have outpaced the university's ability to build and equip classrooms, dorms, laboratories, and other campus facilities. In order to close this deficit, the university is implementing numerous major construction projects funded through a combination of institutional, state and philanthropic resources. Nevertheless, there are additional critical projects UH cannot implement because they do not have the resources at hand. *It is for these projects that the University of Houston is requesting resources through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan.*

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

### *UH Energy Research Projects:*

- **Houston Energy Research Center:** This is a plan to convert buildings into a research park for the university's major energy program – most importantly, the research lab for the National Off-Shore Wind Energy Center, which will complement the blade testing facility (see below) to be built in Ingleside, Texas.

Estimated project cost and federal request: \$44 million

- **National Off-Shore Wind Energy Center Blade Testing Facility:** The facility will be located in Ingleside, Texas on property donated by BP and will include three bays for testing blades up to 100 meters long.

Estimated project cost and federal request: \$28.5 million

- **Houston Solar Energy Initiative and Alternative Energy Laboratory:** In concert with the City of Houston's Solar Energy City initiative, the University of Houston is targeting the installation of two MegaWatts of solar cells on campus.

Estimated project cost and federal request: \$20 million

*UH Health Sciences Research Projects:*

- **UH Vision Institute Ambulatory Surgery and Research Center:** This will provide the UH College of Optometry with greatly expanded surgical facilities and research infrastructure. To date, UH has received \$5.1 million in donations to support construction of the surgery center and anticipates that fundraising efforts will generate an additional \$2.5 million.

Estimated project cost and federal request: \$14.5 million

*UH National Defense and Homeland Security Research Projects:*

- **National Security Support Complex:** This project involves recruitment of high-quality ROTC students; integrating veterans into a college environment; meeting the wartime research demands of the Department of Defense; and addressing declining enrollment in science, technology, engineering, math, and foreign languages.

Estimated project cost and federal request: \$8.5 million

- **Public Safety Infrastructure Laboratory:** This will provide research space for UH engineers and scientists who are developing electronic networks that allow police, fire departments, hospitals and government organizations to access and share vital information.

Estimated project cost and federal request: \$4 million

*UH Campus Infrastructure Projects:*

- **Freshman Village Housing:** This will build a stronger student community on this historically commuter campus, which will, in turn, enhance student retention and graduation, as well as the quality of students UH is able to attract.

Estimated project cost and federal request: \$136 million

- **Utility Infrastructure Upgrades:** The current utility infrastructure at the University predate the university. New state-of-the-art equipment will decrease energy usage by 3 to 4 percent and reduce NOX emissions.

Estimated project cost and federal request: \$45 million

*Proposed City and State Transportation Projects:*

- **Wheeler Avenue Extension and Multi-Modal Transportation Center:** This project would result in greatly improved circulation and traffic carrying capacity for the city.

Estimated project cost and federal request for Wheeler extension: \$81 million  
Estimated project cost and federal request for multi-modal center: \$20 million

- **Spur 5 Extension:** The Texas Department of Insurance proposal to extend Spur 5 from University Drive to South Loop 610 would greatly enhance access to UH by providing a direct freeway connection from the south.

Estimated project cost and federal request: \$264 million

**OPPOSITION**

**NONE**

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Houston Energy Research Center – *Start date: April 2009*

National Off-Shore Wind Energy Center Blade Testing Facility – *Start date: June 2009*

Houston Solar Energy Initiative and Alternative Energy Laboratory – *Start date: June 2009*

UH Vision Institute Ambulatory Surgery and Research Center – *Start date: January 2010*  
National Security Support Complex – *Start date: November 2009*  
Public Safety Infrastructure Laboratory – *Start date: November 2009*  
Freshman Village Housing – *Start date: June 2009 (Phase 1) and June 2010 (Phase 2)*  
Utility Infrastructure Upgrades – *Start date: June 2009*

**RESOURCES REQUIRED**

**NONE**