



GREATER HOUSTON **PARTNERSHIP**

Greater Houston Partnership 2023 D.C. Fly-In The Coastal Texas Program

The Greater Houston Partnership supports funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Coastal Texas Program, also known as the Ike Dike or the Coastal Barrier Project. The program includes the **development of a barrier flood gate and levee system along the Texas coastline** designed to protect national security assets, economic vitality, and human life. The 2022 Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) authorizes the Coastal Texas Program; while we are grateful for the authorization, the Partnership remains committed to supporting funding for this infrastructure investment.

The Partnership will work with our congressional delegation, the Corps, and the non-federal sponsors – the Texas General Land Office and the Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) – to continue moving this project to construction.

Key Talking Points:

- We request funding for the Coastal Texas Program.
- We request continued contract authority so the Corps can draw down a predictable amount of federal funds, particularly for the mission-critical gate system.
- We urge consideration of waiving the GCPD's interest accrual on Sabine to Galveston projects until November 1, 2025. A pause on interest accrual will help the GCPD deliver the project with the strongest benefits to the region and taxpayers.

Benefits of the Texas Coastal Program:

Preventative infrastructure projects, like the Coastal Texas Program, can help **mitigate the devastation from a catastrophic storm surge** and save tens of billions of dollars in disaster recovery funding.

- Impacts to Port Houston and the Houston Ship Channel alone would disrupt the annual handling of nearly 500 million tons of cargo, over \$800 billion in national annual economic activity, over three million jobs, and the supply of approximately 80 percent of the nation's military grade fuel as well as 30 percent of the nation's gasoline.

An investment in a Coastal Texas Program **protects our region from devastating economic losses** which would occur with a direct, large windstorm hit to Port Houston and the ship channel.

- Given the calculated Benefit-to-Cost ratio of nearly 2.0 and more than \$2 billion in estimated average annual flood reduction benefits, we believe the approximately \$31 billion it would take to implement the Coastal Texas Program would be a prudent investment to protect against potential losses totaling hundreds of billions of dollars.

The Coastal Texas Program is an investment in our **national economic security**.

- The Houston region is home to one of the largest concentrations of refining and petrochemical complexes in the world, and a storm's direct hit to the unprotected ship channel would have devastating economic consequences across our nation as 96 percent of manufactured goods are directly touched by the chemistry business.