



February 23, 2023

The Honorable Representative Gary VanDeaver
Chairman, Select Committee on Article III, Appropriations
Texas State Capitol
1200 Congress Ave
Room E1.032
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chairman VanDeaver and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Greater Houston Partnership, representing the business community of the 12-county Houston region, I am pleased to express our support for increased research funding for Texas Southern University.

Texas Southern University continues to demonstrate excellence in research and supports many of Texas' most important industries, including aviation, biotechnology, sustainable development, and petrochemicals through their academic studies.

There are currently 11 Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCUs) that hold the Carnegie R-2 status, indicating "high research activity." There are no HBCUs with the R-1 designation (very high research activity), and Texas Southern University has an opportunity to become the first HBCU in the country to earn the R-1 designation.

Elevating Texas Southern University to R-1 status would improve Texas' reputation for top-tier higher education, attract elite students and professors, improve the region's competitiveness in securing federal research opportunities, and signal to the business community that Texas is serious about investing in the continued development of a highly skilled workforce.

The Greater Houston Partnership supports Texas Southern University's request for additional research funding and would appreciate your favorable consideration. Thank you for your service and dedication to greater Houston's students, educational institutions, and workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bob Harvey'.

Bob Harvey
President & CEO