

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
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Washington, DC 20515

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OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Project 11 segment 5 and 6 + ATONS project in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The funding would be used for As part of Segments 5-6, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to design and improve two dredged material placement areas (i.e., Glendale and Filterbed), deepen the Houston Ship Channel up to 41.5 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW), and improve Brady's Island Turning Basin to a minimum 900 feet diameter.

Without Fiscal Year 24 federal funding for Segments 5-6, the USACE will have to delay the design of the placement sites and subsequent Houston Ship Channel dredging. The US Army Corps of Engineers has identified that widening the Bayport Ship Channel area requires relocating two existing Aids to Navigation (ATONS). The first ATON is located near LBC Terminal, and the second ATON is situated near the BSC Terminal. Without relocating the ATON towers for visual alignment, the Houston Pilots cannot safely navigate the widening in the Bayport Ship Channel. The relocation of these ATONS is vital for the vessels traversing the Houston Ship Channel to be able to navigate the future width and depth of the new waterway safely and efficiently.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the ATONS benefit every user of the Houston Ship Channel, increasing safety and navigability. Furthermore, the goods and cargo coming through the Houston Ship Channel and Bayport Ship channel touch every Congressional district in the United States. Segments 5-6 are critical to keeping the project on schedule, on budget, and in compliance with the Congressionally approved Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) air emissions plan.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 4007, 4009 (a) and/or 4009(c) in the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nations Act of 2016.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sheila Jackson Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheila" being the most prominent.

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress