

February 8, 2022

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Water Resources and
Environment

The Honorable David Rouzer
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources and
Environment

RE: Support for Coastal Texas Resiliency Improvement Plan identified in the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Chief's Report (Coastal Texas Chief's Report) also called the Coastal Spine

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, Subcommittee Chairwoman Napolitano and Subcommittee Ranking Member Rouzer:

The undersigned trade associations who represent thousands of good paying American manufacturing jobs across the country urge your support for storm surge protection infrastructure along the upper Texas coast, also referred to as the Coastal Spine. This important issue will be addressed at the Transportation & Infrastructure Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Hearing titled "Proposals for a Water Resources Development Act of 2022: Stakeholder Priorities."

This much-needed infrastructure will reduce risks to vital resources that hold significant implications for the nation's supply chains and economic security. The region that would be protected by this project has a high concentration of petrochemical manufacturing facilities, with Texas being the largest chemistry producing state. The Coastal Spine is also home to a majority of the refineries in Texas, representing almost 25 percent of all U.S. refining capacity.

Although natural disasters vary, the impacts are all too similar. In 2021, the Texas gulf coast experienced unprecedented weather due to Winter Storm Uri, a storm that significantly impacted our continued operations and created a ripple effect across numerous supply chains. According to data from the Independent Commodity Intelligence Services, nearly a quarter of U.S.-based chemical and synthetic materials capacity was estimated to be offline. A hurricane or storm surge could present similar or worse impacts.

With over 96 percent of all manufactured goods touched by the business of chemistry, our industries are important to every state and congressional district in the country. For example, our products are inputs for dairy bottles in California, packaging in Oregon, injection molded products in Missouri, and carpet and furniture in North Carolina. Our assets, employees, and communities where we live and work need this much-needed infrastructure investment to stabilize our nation's supply chains.

The importance of our industries was highlighted in March 2020, when as part of the federal government response to COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security identified our industries as Essential Critical Infrastructure, industrial sectors critical to public health and safety, economic and national security. From critical inputs for medical masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) to manufacturing hand sanitizer and disinfectants, our industries have played a critical role in the global battle against COVID-19.

This project balances preserving beaches and the unique ecosystems of the coast while also providing multiple lines of defense to protect essential human and economic infrastructure in one of the most diverse cities in the country.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on this effort.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council

American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers

National Association of Chemical Distributors

Plastics Industry Association