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DR. ELIZABETH FAGEN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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April 6, 2023

The Honorable Dade Phelan  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768

RE: LAKE HOUSTON SPILLWAY DAM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Dear Speaker Phelan:

I am writing today to express my strong support for the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project as proposed by the City of Houston for consideration for State funding.

The shortcomings of the Lake Houston Dam became especially apparent during Hurricane Harvey when families in our community experienced catastrophic flooding. One of the most visible losses was Kingwood High School. Waters engulfed the campus, washed fish from the San Jacinto River into hallways, and covered athletic fields and grounds with debris. The gym floor curled up and floated. The theater became full of dark, putrid water. The high school's \$1.6 million in instructional materials were destroyed, as were \$1.2 million in musical instruments. Making Kingwood High School usable again cost more than \$65 million and required the displacement of 2,700 students for about six months while the work was done.

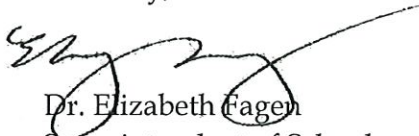
Humble ISD also experienced significant flooding at two administrative buildings as well as at an Agricultural Barn that houses students' FFA livestock projects. Fear of flooding remains a reality in our community. Some children still dread heavy rain because they remember leaving their homes by rescue boat. You can help protect people, residential and business properties, and public assets by providing State funding for the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project.

We understand the construction of the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project is a vital component to the strategically planned approach to reducing flood risk in the region. By not adding additional controlled release structures and stability features, communities, schools, companies, and much-needed public infrastructure within the San Jacinto watershed will continue to be at risk of flooding and permanent damage from severe storms.

The City of Houston is committed to on-going community engagement and has conducted numerous public meetings for residents in the Lake Houston area. Participation was high and residents continue to voice support for conducting projects in our communities that reduce the risk of flooding.

On behalf of Humble Independent School District, we appreciate your consideration for the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project and all you can do for the constituents residing in the Lake Houston area.

Sincerely,



Dr. Elizabeth Fagen  
Superintendent of Schools