May 15, 2018

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor, State of Texas  
1100 San Jacinto Boulevard  
Austin, Texas  

Dear Governor Abbott,

As local officials of jurisdictions affected by Hurricane Harvey in 2017, the budgets of our jurisdictions have been stretched engaging in direct response and recovery over the past fiscal year. However, if our efforts for recovery do not include disaster mitigation, then the money we have spent is just funding for future failure.

The FEMA 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program can assist us with those mitigation efforts, but there is a local match required. We write today to ask the State of Texas to utilize the Economic Stabilization Fund or other state funding source to participate fully, at 100 percent, in covering the local match.

Under the present declaration, FEMA will fund up to 75 percent of the cost of eligible mitigation measures taken by local governments. By providing for the remaining match, the State of Texas will be directly contributing to flood mitigation efforts.

Funding of the local share would allow the State of Texas to directly contribute to flood mitigation projects. By covering the local share, not only would the state directly save local taxpayer dollars, but would equitably fund projects across the impacted area.

The states of Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Virginia, Georgia and Colorado have provided for local matches in situations utilizing HMGP. We ask that the State of Texas make a similar effort in joining local jurisdictions as a partner in flood mitigation.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Tim Lapham  
Austin County Judge

The Honorable Paul Pape  
Bastrop County Judge

The Honorable Stephanie Moreno  
Bee County Judge

The Honorable L.M. “Matt” Sebesta, Jr.  
Brazoria County Judge

The Honorable Ken Schawe  
Caldwell County Judge

The Honorable Michael J. Pfeifer  
Calhoun County Judge
The Honorable Jimmy Sylvia
Chambers County Judge

The Honorable Ty Prause
Colorado County Judge

The Honorable Ed Janecka
Fayette County Judge

The Honorable Robert E. Hebert
Fort Bend County Judge

The Honorable P.T. “Pat” Calhoun
Goliad County Judge

The Honorable David Bird
Gonzales County Judge

The Honorable Wayne McDaniel
Hardin County Judge

The Honorable Ed Emmett
Harris County Judge

The Honorable Dennis Simons
Jackson County Judge

The Honorable Mark Allen
Jasper County Judge

The Honorable Jeff Branick
Jefferson County Judge

The Honorable Craig Doyal
Montgomery County Judge

The Honorable Dean T. Crooks
Orange County Judge

The Honorable Ben Zeller
Victoria County Judge
The Honorable Carbett “Trey” J. Duhon, III
Waller County Judge

The Honorable Phillip Spenrath
Wharton County Judge

The Honorable Connie B. Schroeder
Mayor of Bastrop

The Honorable Andrew S. Friedberg
Mayor of Bellaire

The Honorable Eric Scott
Mayor of Brookshire

The Honorable Sara Post Meyer
Mayor of Cuero

The Honorable Jimmy Kendrick
Mayor of Fulton

The Honorable Jim Yarbrough
Mayor of Galveston

The Honorable Trudia Preston
Mayor of Goliad

The Honorable Sylvester Turner
Mayor of Houston

The Honorable Merle Aaron
Mayor of Humble

The Honorable Andy Brauninger
Mayor of Huntsville

The Honorable Jim Pappas
Mayor of Hunters Creek Village

The Honorable Fred E. Williams
Mayor of Kountze

The Honorable Louis R. Rigby
Mayor of La Porte
The Honorable Joe Rinehart
Mayor of Lake Jackson

The Honorable Carl Pickett
Mayor of Liberty

The Honorable Don Surratt
Mayor of Lumberton

The Honorable Bert Miller
Mayor of Navasota

The Honorable Jeff Wagner
Mayor of Pasadena

The Honorable David Allen
Mayor of Prairie View

The Honorable Mandy Barrera
Mayor of Robstown

The Honorable Charles Wax
Mayor of Rockport

The Honorable Chris Parr
Mayor of Roman Forest

The Honorable Rick Thomisee
Mayor of Rose Hill Acres

The Honorable Earl Brown
Mayor of Shepherd

The Honorable Herbert Muckleroy
Mayor of Silsbee

The Honorable Louis Boudreaux
Mayor of Simonton

The Honorable Bruce Robinson
Mayor of Sour Lake

The Honorable Joe Soto
Mayor of South Houston

The Honorable Glenn Patterson
Mayor of Southside Place
The Honorable Tom S. Ramsey  
Mayor of Spring Valley Village

The Honorable Joe Zimmerman  
Mayor of Sugar Land

The Honorable Robert Viator, Jr.  
Mayor of Vidor

The Honorable Susan Sample  
Mayor of West University Place

Leonard Reed  
Mayor of Willis

Vera Craig  
Mayor of Woodbranch Village