

**Testimony for Rep. Gene Green**  
**Member Request Before the Energy-Water Development Subcommittee**  
**March 8, 2017**

Chairman Simpson, Ranking Member Kaptur, and Members of the Energy-Water Development Subcommittee, I thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning.

My name is Gene Green. I have the great honor of representing the 29<sup>th</sup> District of Texas. The 29<sup>th</sup> District is a hard-working, minority-majority community in Houston and eastern Harris County.

The 29<sup>th</sup> District is home to the Port of Houston. The Port of Houston is the number one export terminal in the country. Our port is the major economic engine for eastern Harris County, responsible for over 56,000 direct jobs and over \$5 billion in state and local tax revenue from business activity related to the port.

In order for the Port of Houston, and other port facilities in the United States to grow and support economic activity throughout the country, it is critical that Congress significantly increase funding for maintenance and dredging operations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the 2018 Fiscal Year.

Increasing funding for the Army Corps Civil Works Operations and Maintenance account is the only way to ensure that the Port of Houston is dredged to the authorized depth of 45 feet and will be able to accommodate post-Panamax vessels that are larger and are becoming the international norm for maritime container shipping.

The same is true for ports all along the Gulf Coast and the Atlantic Seaboard, who rely on Army Corps dredging to keep their terminals open for business.

The 29<sup>th</sup> District and neighboring communities in Harris and surrounding counties have been severely impacted by flooding in recent years.

In the past two years, the Greater Houston Region has suffered from two catastrophic flood events on Memorial Day in 2015 and on Tax Day last year that killed 17 local residents and caused billions of dollars in damages. In fact, many people in Houston directly affected by the 2016 Tax Day flood had only recently recovered from the previous year's flood.

In response to the growing frequency of catastrophic flooding in Houston and Harris County, my colleagues Congressman Al Green, Congressman John Culberson, and I introduced legislation last year to authorize \$311 million in emergency appropriations for flood control projects.

That legislation, while not enacted, was cosponsored by over 100 House Members and received strong support from the local business community.

For the 2018 Fiscal Year, I urge this subcommittee to significantly increase the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (FCCE) Account.

A robust increase in Army Corps flood control projects would greatly benefit communities in Houston and along the Gulf Coast who live in constant fear of when the next flood will strike next and save billions of dollars in property protected from flood damage.

Thank you all again for the opportunity to testify this morning. Please contact me if I can be of any assistance on these important matters.