

LETTER FROM
US CONGRESSMAN RANDY WEBER
&
US CONGRESSMAN STEVE STOCKMAN
ENCOURAGING CLCND TO RESOLVE
THE
ISSUE TO PROTECT PUBLIC REEFS AND
SMALL BUSINESSES THAT RELY ON
GALVESTON BAY FOR THEIR
LIVELIHOOD.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 11, 2014

Terry Haltom
Chairman of Chambers-Liberty County Navigation District
P.O. Box 518
Anahuac, TX 77514

CC: Texas General Land Office, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department,

Dear Chairman Haltom;

It has been brought to our attention that there is an ongoing dispute over a lease agreement granted on April 15, 2014 by the Chambers-Liberty County Navigation District (CLCND) to Sustainable Texas Oyster Resource Management, LLC (STORM). The dispute with regard to this CLCND lease is that it conflicts with current leases issued by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

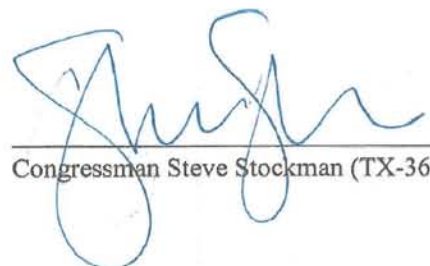
The CLCND lease totals 23,000 acres, and includes numerous public reefs and seven private oyster leases. Due to the high number of public and private oyster farmers and fishermen in the area, this lease has the potential to have catastrophic negative impacts on small business and individual citizens with long histories of making their livelihood farming oysters and fishing in Galveston Bay.

Many constituents, from both the Texas 14th and 36th Congressional districts, have contacted our offices expressing their concern over the impact of this lease. We also are concerned that CLCND did not fully investigate the negative impacts that this lease would have on all oyster farmers and fishermen in Galveston Bay.

We encourage you to work with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas General Land Office to resolve this issue in order to protect access to public leases and to protect small businesses. There are many entities that rely on Galveston Bay for their livelihood. All interests must be considered prior to a lease agreement, especially one of this magnitude. We look forward to your timely response and for a successful resolution.

Sincerely,


Congressman Randy K. Weber (TX-14)


Congressman Steve Stockman (TX-36)