



WHEREAS the Houston/Galveston area is home to the largest and most important concentration of petroleum refining and petrochemical processing plants in the United States, and the Port of Houston is the second-busiest port in the nation; and

WHEREAS the region is hit by a major hurricane about every 15 years, and the Perryman Report estimates that a "Katrina-like" storm would cause aggregate losses to the Texas economy of \$73 billion in gross product, \$61.3 billion in income and 863,000 jobs while causing an enormous amount of damage to the economy of the United States; and

WHEREAS a storm surge suppression system, using manmade sand dunes (revetments covered with sand and natural grasses) along the length of the coast connecting to the existing Galveston Seawall as well as large moveable flood gates, is essential to protect the industries, citizens, and communities in the Houston/Galveston region and to preserve the region's coastal ecosystem; and

WHEREAS such a storm surge suppression system currently under serious study is termed the "Ike Dike concept," a name derived from Hurricane Ike, which made landfall in Galveston, Texas, on September 13, 2008, and developed by Texas A&M University at Galveston's Dr. Bill Merrell; and

WHEREAS this concept is directly modeled from other technologies successfully installed around the world – including in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, St. Petersburg, Russia, along the Thames River in London, England, and in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS the "Ike Dike concept" coastal spine surge suppression system is technically feasible, economically sound, environmentally friendly and socially just;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Galveston Economic Development Alliance fully endorses and supports the continued development of a storm surge suppression system, such as the "Ike Dike concept," which would provide comprehensive protection to the industries, businesses, schools, government facilities, residences and associated infrastructure near Galveston Bay.



David Murphy
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Galveston County Economic Alliance



C. B. Rathburn, Ph.D.
President
Galveston County Economic Alliance



Victor Pierson
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Galveston County Economic Alliance
Foundation