



The Honorable Rick Perry  
The State of Texas  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

I am writing to give my strongest support for the establishment of a RESTORE Act Center of Excellence at the University of Houston. The University of Houston is uniquely positioned for this selection due to its expertise in offshore energy development to include improving sustainable and safe development.

Houston is the Energy Capital of the World with more than 3,600 oil and gas related companies. It serves as a hub of offshore technologies. The University of Houston has long supported the oil and gas industry developing unique academic and research strengths:

- The nation's only Subsea Engineering Masters and Certificate
- The nation's only Well Design and Well Completions Engineering
- The National Center for Laser Airborne Mapping

The Texas Center of Excellence for Offshore Energy Development, located at the University of Houston, would create a consortium of Texas and Gulf-Coast based academic, non-governmental and governmental agencies and industry partners to address scientific, technological and policy challenges for the implementation of safe and sustainable development of offshore energy in increasingly extreme environments. The University of Houston is already home to a 75-acre Energy Research Park and the UH Energy Advisory Board, which further attests to its deep commitment to energy research and safety.

As the Texas Center of Excellence for Offshore Energy Development, the University of Houston would further strengthen its relationship with NASA Johnson Space Center, also located in Houston. A partnership with NASA JSC, along with the 51 aerospace contractor companies that support its work, whose expertise in robotics and remote operated vehicles, its Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory, high pressure – high temperature facilities, risk assessment experience and sub-sea power abilities would help to place the Texas Center of Excellence for Offshore Energy Development at the University of Houston at the forefront of the world's offshore energy development, research and safety.

Please contact me at 832.536.3255 or at [bob@bayareahouston.com](mailto:bob@bayareahouston.com) should you need further substantiation of the University of Houston's unique qualifications to be designated as a RESTORE Act Center of Excellence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Mitchell".

Bob Mitchell  
President