



To the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System and Other Interested Parties:

It is my understanding that Texas A&M University at Galveston intends to introduce a Master of Maritime Administration and Logistics degree in 2011. The Port of Houston Authority and the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership have partnered on various initiatives over the course of many years. Through this collaboration, we are well aware of the personnel shortage in the maritime industry, which will only be exacerbated once the widening of the Panama Canal is completed in just a few short years.

The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership strongly endorses the implementation of this new degree program at TAMUG. It will be a welcome and important addition to the maritime curricula currently being offered within the independent school districts, community colleges, colleges and universities in Bay Area Houston.

If the region is to remain highly competitive as one of this nation's major ports, there must be well-trained personnel to fill job vacancies. It is, therefore, in the best interests of our maritime industry and the people it serves for the proposed Master of Maritime Administration and Logistics degree at Texas A&M University at Galveston to be approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bob Mitchell
President