



BAYTOWN LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

115TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- ✓ Support full remediation of the San Jacinto Waste Pits Super Fund site to ensure area residents have safe water conditions for fishing and other recreational purposes.
- ✓ Oppose efforts by the EPA to implement new ozone standards before allowing the 2008 ozone standards to fully take effect, balancing economic growth and environmental protection.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Support workforce resources and programs that allow state and local levels of government to create programs that work for their state or locality, not one-size-fits-all national programs.
- ✓ Support the continuation of funding for the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the American Community Survey, along with efforts to broaden and deepen workforce and labor data at the zip code level.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- ✓ Maintain or expand federal resources for public safety grant programs that provide core services provided by the City of Baytown:
 - Federal Homeland Security Grant Programs (Urban Areas Security Initiative, Port Security, Buffer Zone Protection, and State Homeland Security);
 - Police Grant Programs (COPS and Byrne/Justice Assistance); and
 - Fire Grant Programs (Assistance to Firefighters, Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, and Fire Prevention and Safety).

PUBLIC WORKS

- ✓ Support implementation of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority (WIFIA) as authorized with the enactment of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) to assist localities in need of resources for flood control, water supply, and wastewater infrastructure.
- ✓ Support the continued exemption of Public Water Systems and Water Treatment Facilities from the Department of Homeland Security CFATS regulation.
- ✓ Provide funding for hardening of existing infrastructure to mitigate natural and man-made disasters.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Oppose additional funding reductions to the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and legislation that lowers the CDBG administrative cap below 20%.
- ✓ Support full funding for the T-HUD bill, which supports many important community development efforts in Baytown.

FLEXIBILITY TO ALLOCATE PEG FEES

- ✓ Support legislation (*similar to the Community Access Preservation, or CAP Act of 2013, S.1789*) that would eliminate the distinction between “capital” and “operating” with regard to how public, educational, or governmental (PEG) channels/studios utilize their support fees.



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PESTICIDES

- ✓ Support a legislative amendment to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) to clarify that pesticides or any biological control organism permitted under FIFRA will not be considered a pollutant and therefore avoid facing unnecessary restrictions by the EPA through the Clean Water Act.

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

- ✓ Support legislation to address a loophole in the tax code and allow states and local governments the ability to require out-of-state (online) merchants to collect and remit sales tax at the time of purchase.

FRANCHISE FEES

- ✓ Oppose legislation that would reduce or eliminate a municipality's ability to collect franchise fees for use of rights-of-way.

PUBLIC FINANCE

- ✓ Oppose efforts to limit or remove the exemption on the taxing of municipal bond interest.
- ✓ Oppose legislation that would prohibit any special district of the city from being able to sell tax-exempt bonds.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

- ✓ Oppose legislation that would require municipalities to fund former State and Federal programs without providing the associated resources.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) REGULATIONS

- ✓ Support efforts to streamline and reform duplicative and burdensome requirements currently mandated by NEPA.

ARTS AND CULTURE

- ✓ Support continued funding for NEA and EDA grant programs to improve arts and cultural opportunities in our community and to restore historic areas of our city.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

- ✓ Oppose any legislation that would require local governments to adopt federal collective bargaining standards.
- ✓ Oppose any federal preemption of state defined-benefit plans, such as the Texas Municipal Retirement System.

PRIORITY TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

- ✓ Support the I-10 and John Martin/Garth Road On and Off Ramp Re-Configuration Project, focused on spurring economic opportunity in the area.
- ✓ Support measures that allow for local control of transportation resources, eliminating unnecessary State and Federal administrative costs and creating efficiencies.