

Governor Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

October 16, 2024

Dear Governor Abbott,

On behalf of our members and supporters, we reach out as residents of the communities in Brazoria County most impacted, to strongly urge you to oppose the Texas Gulflink project, which is a climate, ecological and economic disaster.

As Governor you have the opportunity to support a just energy transition that creates diverse economic development, new career fields, and opportunities for workforce transition for skilled technicians. The Maritime Administration and US Coast Guard have completed reviewing the application to build Texas Gulflink. It is within your power as the Governor of Texas, the adjacent coastal state, to reject these authorizations for the project as it would have negative impacts on your state, the nation and the world.

Leaders and residents of the communities that would be most directly impacted by the project have consistently raised concerns about the devastating blow that these facilities would deal to our coastal communities, ecosystems, and climate. The federal review of these projects has failed to be fair, inclusive and thorough, failing to consistently and meaningfully engage impacted residents from providing input regarding these proposed projects.

We are also gravely concerned that the reviews have failed to fully capture the full climate, air quality and endangered species impacts, or take into account the cumulative environmental risks these proposals present.

Freeport, Texas, and the surrounding areas where SPOT and GulfLink are proposed, bear one of the nation's most environmentally unjust pollution burdens. The EPA has designated Brazoria County as a severe nonattainment zone for ground-level ozone levels, a harmful toxic pollutant that would be generated in significant quantities by Gulflink.

The health and safety of Gulf Coast families – not to mention the fate of the world's efforts to combat climate change – are put at risk so that a handful of fossil fuel executives and shareholders can get rich selling American oil and gas to the highest overseas bidder. Meanwhile,

working families who are increasingly impacted by natural disasters due to climate change, are barely surviving on even tighter budgets to heat their homes and fuel their vehicles.

Climate Change has made the Gulf Region highly vulnerable to sea level rise, extreme heat, coastal degradation and extreme weather. The loss of coastal wetlands, warmer ocean waters fueling more frequent and intense hurricanes is a reality in our communities. Brazoria County, Texas suffered extensive damage in 2020 from storm surges and outer bands of hurricanes that hit the region and destroyed homes and was at the center of Hurricane Beryl's extreme impact in July 2024.

Unequivocally, the proposed deepwater oil export terminals would exacerbate this crisis. Gulflink would produce significant greenhouse gas pollution, contributing to climate change creating warm ocean waters that provide the energy hurricanes need to form and intensify, worsening coastal flooding and storm damage. The proposed Gulflink project itself, both onshore and offshore infrastructure, would be at great risk of severe damage from hurricanes.

Gulflink threatens coastal communities with a greater risk of more oil spills, nearly 100 miles of proposed new local pipelines that threaten fragile coastal wetlands and the Brazos River Watershed, a drinking water supply for thousands of people, health impacts from air pollution and flooding and severe storm damage from climate change. We urge you to use your authority as our Governor to stop Texas Gulflink.

Sincerely,

Better Brazoria: Clean Air and Water

Climate Conversation Brazoria County

Freeport Haven Project