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Dear Neighbor,

I am glad to share with you this Mid-Year Report of my work on behalf of Texas' Seventh Congressional District.

The first half of 2022 has been eventful—from introducing and passing legislation that is important to our community, to responding to gun violence across our country and the war in Ukraine, to helping our neighbors get the assistance they need from federal agencies, to. And we are seeing the direct results of some of this legislation already. I serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over so many matters of great importance to our community, including energy and health care. You will find a summary of my committee work and more highlights from the first half of the year on the pages that follow.

As always, I am honored to represent you and I am here to help you. Please call my office at (713) 353–8680 or (202) 225–2571 or email me at <u>fletcher</u>. <u>house.gov/contact</u> at any time to ask for assistance or share your thoughts. My team and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Vimi Fletaur



Letter from Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher

## Efforts to Help Ukrainians



**EFFORTS TO HELP UKRAINIANS** 

# Protecting Sovereignty and Democracy in Ukraine

In February, Russian President Vladimir Putin chose to launch an unprovoked war against Ukraine with devastating consequences for the people of Ukraine, Europe, and the world. In doing so, President Putin has violated the core principles that uphold global peace and security, seeking to change the borders of a sovereign nation by force. As Americans, we must be united in our opposition to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and assault on its sovereign, democratic government as well as in our support for the right of Ukraine to defend itself.

Congress has responded by providing \$13.6 billion in emergency funding for security and humanitarian assistance in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022. Congress also passed the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act, which allows the U.S. to provide weapons and military supplies to Ukraine and other

AMERICAN GAS

EXPEDITING U.S. LNG EXPORTS TO NATO ALLIES

Eastern European countries impacted by Russia's invasion without requiring recipients to pay for the equipment up-front. Most recently, we passed the *Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act* to provide Ukraine with \$40 billion in critical military aid and humanitarian assistance.

Bringing the perspective of our district to the challenges before us, I introduced the American Energy for Europe Act, H.R. 6874, with Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin (MI-08) to establish a new program at the Department of Energy to assist our European partners in replacing Russian natural gas, oil, and nuclear supplies with American energy, and the American Gas for Allies Act, H.R. 6977, to allow U.S. Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) to receive expedited approval from the Department of Energy to export LNG from the U.S. to NATO member countries.

# AMERICAN ENERGY FOR EUROPE ACT

Establishing a program at the Department of Energy to reduce our European allies' reliance on Russian energy



#### Olga's Grandmother

Our District Director, Shirley, was able to help a constituent, Olga, and her grandmother get a visa appointment so she could travel to Houston from Ukraine and continue her cancer treatments here.

Olga sent the following message, which I'm glad to share:

"When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24th, my family was in danger. My grandmother was not able to receive medical treatment due to the war. With that, I was trying to expedite the process of bringing my family to the U.S. so they can be safe and be able to receive necessary medical treatment. Lizzie Fletcher's office did an absolutely amazing job in assisting with consulate matters and expedite the process. I am very thankful to all of the employees that were working on this matter."



#### Tetyana's Niece

Recently, we helped Tetyana F. get her niece the medical attention she needed after Russia bombed the hospital in Ukraine where she was being treated.

Tetyana sent the following message, which I'm glad to share:

"We contacted Congresswoman Fletcher's office because my niece was in a hospital after arm surgery in Ukraine when Russia started bombing the city of the hospital. We were concerned that the arm would become infected because she left with no medication. We had her transported to Romania where she received free care for her arm. Communication with the U.S. Embassy was not always clear so Ms. Fletcher's office helped us understand the process. Thank you!"



#### APPROPRIATED

#### Infrastructure

## Community Funded Projects

# **TX-07 Community Funded Projects**

Last year, the House Appropriations Committee announced that funds for projects would be available to those who submitted requests on behalf of their communities. I was pleased to announce this spring that I secured \$13.6 million in federal funding for Community Funded Projects in our district. Each of the projects will make a positive impact in our community to keep people safe and healthy, and minimize the impacts of flooding. They include:

- **\$9,950,000 for Harris County Flood Control District** for the planning and development of the Meyergrove Detention Basin, a 7.5-acre stormwater detention basin for the conveyance of more than 50 million gallons of stormwater away from nearby homes and businesses. The basin will be located on the southeastern side of North Braeswood Boulevard in Houston, abutting main stem Brays Bayou in the Brays Bayou Watershed, and would protect against flooding in areas that have been repeatedly flooded in 2015, 2016, and 2017.
- \$975,000 for the Houston Police Department for a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant to support the employment of nine full-time crime victim advocates. The advocates help the department provide a trauma-informed response for victims of violent crimes by responding to critical incidents and other violent crime scenes when requested by officers.
- **\$900,000 for the City of Houston Health Department** to purchase a new Ambulance Mobile Stroke Unit to respond more quickly and appropriately to stroke victims and help increase their chance of survival without handicap.
- **\$782,000 for the City of Bellaire** to address the deficient waterline infrastructure and improve water distribution and wastewater collection systems. The funding will help repair and replace waterlines that are older than 50 years.
- **\$624,835 for the City of Jersey Village** for a full street reconstruction of Seattle Street in Jersey Village from Senate Ave west to the dead end. This project will replace water lines for approximately 55 homes. It will replace sewer lines for approximately 25 homes. The whole street will receive new storm sewer lines that will help remove rain from the streets and hold it in the larger storm water pipes to help prevent street flooding and reduce the chance of home flooding on these blocks.
- \$450,000 for the City of Houston Fire Department to support their Emergency Telehealth and Navigation (ETHAN) project, where on-scene mobile technology is used to connect EMT care for low-acuity 911 patients with emergency physicians who have access to primary care resources within the community.



#### Press Release:

Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher Secures \$13.6 Million For Projects Benefiting Texas' Seventh Congressional District and Houston Community

More Information: FY2022 Community Funded Project Requests



Click2Houston.com | March 24, 2022

## Detention basin project aims to help areas that experienced repeated flooding

#### By Michael Lopardi

HOUSTON — Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher has announced nearly \$10,000,000 in federal funding for the Meyergrove Detention Basin, a project aiming to help areas that have experienced repeated flooding.

"It's a much-needed improvement that will have a real impact on the people of this community," Fletcher said.

The Harris County Flood Control District said the new storm water detention basin, planned near Brays Bayou, will hold water during heavy rain events and be designed to prevent the bayou from overflowing. "The water that's held in the basin will then return back to the bayou when the bayou levels lower," said executive director of the flood control district Tina Petersen.

Homeowner Randall Kerr lives near the bayou.

"Actually had back-to-back floods right before Harvey so we had three floods in about a four-year period. And Harvey, obviously, was the worst," Kerr said. "We had four feet of water here."

He's hopeful about plans for the

new basin.

"I think anything that's going to help this neighborhood or this area, in general, is great," Kerr said. "We'll take any kind of help, period."

The flood control district said construction is anticipated to start in the fall of this year and be completed by the spring of next year.

View the original story on Click2Houston.com here.

#### Community Impact | May 9, 2022

## Jersey Village water line project to begin soon with U.S. Rep. Lizzie Fletcher's support

#### By Mikah Boyd, Danica Lloyd

A new project to replace water lines for 55 homes in Jersey Village, including new sewer lines for 25 homes, is expected to begin this summer to benefit areas of the city that have experienced repeated flooding, according to a news release. As part of the project, Seattle Street will receive new storm sewer lines to help prevent street flooding and reduce the chance of homes flooding in that area. Community Impact Newspaper previously reported Seattle will also be fully reconstructed from Senate Avenue west to the dead end.

The project went out for bids in early May and is expected to begin in late June or early July, officials said. Construction should take about one year. U.S. Rep. Lizzie Fletcher, D-Houston, specifically requested the \$624,835 in federal funding last year and has since secured those dollars through the Community Funded Project process. Fletcher voted for the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 on March 9, which funds this and other essential projects, according to the release. President Joe Biden signed the bill into law March 15.

"I'm really thrilled that we were able to bring this project here, and part of the reason I'm so excited about it is because it's a great example of how we work together here in Texas, the Seventh Congressional District and here in our community," Fletcher said at a May 4 press conference. "This is a project that represents the work of the city of Jersey Village, the hard work of the mayor and also a great partnership with the state and with my office and our team in the Seventh Congressional District."

Read the original story on <u>CommunityImpact.com here</u>.

### Infrastructure

## Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act



#### ENACTED

# The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

In November of last year, I voted for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), a bipartisan infrastructure bill that makes the largest long-term investment in our country's infrastructure in nearly a century. I was glad to work on this major piece of legislation, which included my bill, the *Revive Economic Growth and Reclaim Orphaned Wells (REGROW) Act of 2021* to clean up abandoned oil and gas wells throughout the country, reduce environmental hazards and public health risks, and create employment opportunities for skilled oil and gas workers.

We are already seeing the effects of my legislation. In February, the Department of the Interior awarded \$343,695,029 to the State of Texas-more than any other state-to plug orphaned wells.



\$3.3 billion from the IIJA is headed to Texas to modernize public transit, improve accessibility, and expand public transportation options for projects like METRONext. Through the IIJA, Congress has





#### Press Releases

Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher Votes for Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Passage, Highlights Texas Provisions

Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher Joins White House Press Call on Orphaned Well Funding Stemming From Her Legislation

Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher Announces \$142.5 Million in Funding for Port of Houston



prioritized investments in the modernization and expansion of public transit for Houston families and people across the country. I was glad to ride the METRO Rapid Silver Line in TX-07 and discuss the IIJA's impacts with METRO representatives as well as METRO's goals and plans, and what we can achieve with federal investments in public transit in Houston.

Our airports are receiving a boost this year: \$40.2 million for George Bush Intercontinental Airport and \$14.6 million for William P. Hobby Airport this year. Over the next five years, \$1.2 billion from the IIJA will come to Texas to accelerate airport modernization and terminal improvements through a new grant program, which both of our major airports <u>have</u> <u>been granted</u>.







# HELPING IN HOUSTON

## Helping in Houston

# **Serving Constituents**

At home in Houston, our TX-07 team worked tirelessly through the pandemic to provide assistance and resources, and I am glad to say that casework has continued with all matters before federal agencies. This includes helping people with IRS and Social Security, as well as helping with immigration matters, as in the case of constituents with relatives in Ukraine that we have been able to help get to the U.S. I'm proud to announce that earlier this year, our team surpassed 8,000 total cases closed on behalf of TX-07 residents.



"I grew up in the 7th Congressional District and watched the city in general change and adapt in many ways to the world around it, but in some ways remain the same.

"With how her office has handled issues as they arose throughout the years, I felt that I could trust Congresswoman Fletcher and her office in my time of need. And certainly, that time came—when my absent-minded self forgot to renew my passport in time for an upcoming honeymoon trip.

"You would think that during the middle of the pandemic, I would have the time to check for this sort of thing. Anyhow, with her office helping with the National Passport Center on my behalf, I'm so happy to hear that I will be making it to my own trip.

"Thank you so much to Ms. Fatimah E., who responded to all my emails."

Henry D., TX-07 Constituent



#### LISTENING AND INFORMING

# 2022 Community Meetings

We started the year off continuing our schedule of quarterly telephone town halls, monthly virtual town halls on a topic, and informational webinars. I have been excited to get our office back out to where we can see our neighbors face-to-face. We will continue to provide a mix of telephonic, virtual, and in-person events. Keep up to date with event announcements by signing up for my newsletter <u>here</u> and by visiting <u>fletcher.house.gov/events</u>.

- January: Town Hall on the Omicron Variant of COVID-19
- February: Town Hall on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- March: Tax Filing Season Webinar
- March: TX-07 Telephone Town Hall
- April: Town Hall on Flood Control and Recovery
- May: Town Hall on Public Safety and Hate Crimes
- June: 2022 Hurricane Season Outlook and Preparedness Webinar
- June: 2022 TX-07 Mid-Year Town Hall
- July: Town Hall on Gun Violence
- August: Virtual Town Hall on the Houston Area Survey



# **Serving Young Constituents**

This year, I have been pleased to provide several educational opportunities to our young neighbors so far this year, including:

- Lizzie's Little Learners: Read to Lead reading challenge
- Military Service Academy Nominations
  - 7 students from TX-07 have earned appointments to our nation's service academies this year!
- Congressional Art Competition
- Valentines for Vets
- Internships

## Helping in Houston

#### PHOTOS

# At Home in Houston

With COVID-19 vaccination rates rising and hospitalization levels dropping after the beginning of the year, I have been excited to meet with our neighbors around TX-07 and in our office. It has been a joy to deliver Valentines for Veterans and Meals on Wheels, provide flags for schools and for veterans, visit small businesses, and so much more. I have also worked to meet constituents and community leaders where they are in schools, shops, roundtables, and tours.



























Helping in Houston

Constituent Services

#### **CONSTITUENT SERVICES**

# How can we help?

We have a talented and dedicated team that serves our district in Washington and in Houston. We are always glad to help by answering questions and helping solve problems. Here are some of the things we can do:

#### **HELP WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES**

While we cannot ask an agency to decide a matter in your favor, we can usually help you get information and a prompt response from agencies including the IRS, SBA, FEMA, HUD, and many others.

#### **HELP WITH SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE**

If you need information about Social Security programs, including retirement and survivor benefits, disability,and supplemental security income, or Medicare, including determining which health care services are available for coverage, or if you are having trouble with claims, we can help.

#### **HELP WITH VETERANS' BENEFITS**

If you need help with your claims for VA pensions, disability benefits, VA medical services, burial benefits, military records, or overdue medals, we can help you.

#### **HELP WITH PASSPORTS**

If you need a new or replacement passport processed urgently, we may be able to speed up the process.

#### **HELP WITH IMMIGRATION MATTERS**

If you have problems with visas, green cards, naturalization, or other issues, we may be able to help.

#### **PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

We have internships in Houston and Washington for students. Together with community advisors, I have the honor to nominate a limited number of highly qualified candidates for our military academies each year.

#### **PROVIDE TOURS, FLAGS, & CERTIFICATES**

The Capitol is open again for tours! Our office can help in obtaining and providing a limited number of tours in the Capitol and around Washington. Additionally, our office can provide flags flown over the U.S. Capitol and certificates of Congressional recognition.

We look forward to helping you. Visit <u>fletcher.house.gov/forms/casework</u> to start the process or visit <u>fletcher.house.gov/contact</u> to get in touch.



# WORKING IN WASHINGTON



## Working in Washington

**Legislative Work** 

# **LEGISLATIVE WORK**







#### Legislation Introduced in 2022

- Carbon Limiting Emissions At Refineries (CLEAR) Act, H.R. 6562
- FirstNet Reauthorization Act, H.R. 6768
- American Energy for Europe Act, H.R. 6874
- American Gas for Allies Act, H.R. 6977
- Federal PFAS Research Evaluation Act, H.R. 7289
- Reauthorizing the Pediatric Devices Consortia Program, H.R. 7679
- Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act, H.R. 8297

#### Learn more about all the legislation I have led and votes I have taken here.

### **CONGRESSIONAL ACTION**

## PASSED BY THE HOUSE

The Federal PFAS Research Evaluation Act requires federal agencies with existing per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) research to work with the National Academies of Science to conduct a study on PFAS exposure and toxicity, and to develop a federal research and development plan to address PFAS exposure.

#### PASSED THE HOUSE

FEDERAL PFAS

RESEARCH

**EVALUATION ACT** 

## COLLABORATE IN AN ORDERLY AND COHESIVE MANNER ACT



PASSED BY THE HOUSE

The Collaborate in an Orderly and Cohesive Manner Act invests in the Collaborative Care Model (CoCM), an evidence-based model that integrates behavioral health into the primary care setting to ensure Americans can access mental health care services when they need them.

PASSED THE HOUSE: A BILL TO REAUTHORIZE THE

PEDIATRIC DEVICE CONSORTIA GRANTS PROGRAM

TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP PEDIATRIC MEDICAL DEVICES

#### PASSED BY THE HOUSE

H.R. 7679, legislation to further the development of pediatric medical devices, reauthorizes the Pediatric Device Consortia (PDC) grant program and allows profits for certain Humanitarian Device Exemption (HDE) devices.

# COMMITTEES







#### Committee Assignments

#### House Committee on Energy and Commerce

- Health Subcommittee
- Communications & Technology Subcommittee
- Consumer Protection & Commerce Subcommittee

#### House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

• Environment Subcommittee

Hearings help committees obtain testimony from experts. Markups are where committees review, amend, and vote whether to recommend legislation to the full House for a vote. You can learn more about our schedule by clicking on the committees above. I have also made several of my own questions asked in committee available on YouTube, which you can view <u>here</u>.

# CAUCUSES

#### Partial List

- New Democrat Coalition
  - Trade Task Force, Co-Chair
- Natural Gas Caucus, Co-Chair
- Friends of Belgium Caucus, Co-Chair ......
- Access to Legal Aid Caucus
- Animal Protection Caucus
- Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC)
- Black Maternal Health Caucus
- Energy Export Caucus
- Equality Caucus
- Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
- Oceans Caucus
- Oil and Gas Caucus
- PFAS Task Force
- PORTS Caucus
- Pro-Choice Caucus
- Small Business Caucus
- Task Force for Combating Antisemitism
- U.S.-Japan Caucus
- Venezuela Democracy Caucus





## Working in Washington

Committees and Caucuses

## Working in Washington

Other Legislative Work

# **Other Legislative Work**

## **REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, and with it the constitutional right for women and families to make their own decisions about their reproductive health care and their families' futures. The House of Representatives responded immediately, passing the *Women's Health Protection Act* as well as a bill I introduced, the *Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act*, in early July.

The *Women's Health Protection Act* is landmark legislation that, if passed in the Senate and signed into law, would establish a federal statutory right for health care providers to provide abortion care and a corresponding federal statutory right for patients to receive abortion care, free from unnecessary state bans and restrictions that are intended to impede or block access to abortion.

I introduced the *Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act* in July after lawmakers and others in Texas threatened to punish women leaving the state to obtain abortion in states where it remains legal. The bill reaffirms the constitutional right to travel and prohibits interference with the provision of, access to, or assistance with abortion care across state lines.

I also joined Rep. Marilyn Strickland (WA-10), who was an original co-sponsor of the *Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act*, in introducing the *Reproductive Health Travel Fund Act* to establish a grant program to help ease the financial burden on people and organizations as women travel across the country seeking care.

I have worked and will continue to work with the House Pro-Choice Caucus and Democratic Women's Caucus on these issues, co-sponsoring and voting for important legislation to protect the rights to contraception and abortion called into question in the *Dobbs* decision and to protect the privacy of the personal health information and data of women across the country.



#### **GUN SAFETY**

#### Every community should be safe from gun violence.

In June, Congress passed and President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, a historic, common-sense, bipartisan bill that takes meaningful and necessary steps to make our community and communities across the country safer from the threat of gun violence. For too long, we have witnessed tragic and preventable shootings affect communities in Sandy Hook, Sutherland Springs, Parkland, Santa Fe, El Paso, Buffalo, and Uvalde, and we know that gun violence devastates families across the country each and every day. I was glad to vote for this important legislation, and I will continue to work to protect our communities from gun violence.

#### THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

The Inflation Reduction Act delivers meaningful results for Houston families, lowering health care costs, strengthening our economy, and making smart energy and climate investments—delivering real, meaningful solutions for some of the most pressing challenges facing our community and our country. In particular, I was glad to bring the expertise of the energy capital of the world in crafting a workable program to reduce methane emissions that will make a real impact in the fight against climate change.

The Inflation Reduction Act addresses the priorities of Houstonians by:

- Allowing Medicare to negotiate the price of prescription drugs, making them more affordable for the more than 63 million Medicare beneficiaries;
- Capping Medicare patients' out of pocket costs at \$2,000 per year, with the option to break that amount into affordable monthly payments; and
- Providing \$64 billion to extend the enhanced premium tax credits for the Affordable Care Act until 2025, lowering health care premiums for millions of Americans.
- Investing in domestic energy production and manufacturing, while reducing carbon emissions;
- Imposing a fee on greenhouse gas emissions while establishing a grant program that creates a
  pathway to compliance for operators subject to the fee to deploy emission reduction technologies,
  evening out the playing field and allowing smaller operators access to capital, and incentivizing
  more carbon management technologies and lead to greater emissions reductions; and
- Fighting inflation by reducing deficit spending by \$300 billion in the next ten years and nearly \$2 trillion in the next twenty years.

#### WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

This year, I have continued to focus on improving our community's water infrastructure. This includes not only the Community Funded Projects that will ensure multiple flood mitigation projects in TX-07 have necessary funding, but also supporting the authorization of the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Project (known to many of us as the "Ike Dike") to protect economic and national security interests along the Texas Gulf Coast, testifying to the House in support and working collaboratively to support it and the expansion of the Houston Ship Channel through Project 11.



Lead more about each project on <u>my website</u>.



## CONGRESSWOMAN LIZZIE FLETCHER REPRESENTING TEXAS' 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

# **STAY IN TOUCH!**

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FLETCHER.HOUSE.GOV





