



July 12, 1988

Texas State Aquarium™

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bright
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

In your position as Honorary Co-Chairman for the Texas State Aquarium, I need your help and support for a very special project that I am involved in on behalf of the Aquarium.

As you know, I am chairing the fundraising efforts of the Aquarium Association for the South Texas region. To date we have raised \$14.5 Million in local public funds and \$9.6 Million in philanthropic dollars for the construction of the Phase I - Gulf of Mexico Exhibit Building. We currently need an additional \$5 Million in funding for: animals and start-up expenses, exhibit enhancements, the construction of an observation tower, and outdoor marsh exhibit, and landscaping for the grounds that will include buttresses for the building, lighting, pathways, and a lagoon system containing a series of plazas and a sculpture garden.

The Honorable Jim Wright, Speaker of the House of Representatives, will be in Corpus Christi on Friday, August 5, 1988, to address the Fortieth Annual Convention of the American G. I. Forum at a noon luncheon. I have written him to request a meeting in order to introduce him to the Texas State Aquarium project -- and hopefully to enlist his support and assistance in our fund-raising efforts.

It is my understanding that you will be participating in the convention activities, and I am hopeful that you will be able to join us in our meeting with Speaker Wright. I will let you know as soon as we hear from him in order for you to check your personal schedule.

The members of the Board of Trustees of the Texas State Aquarium Association and I sincerely appreciate your continuing support for this most challenging project.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luther Jones". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Luther Jones
Mayor Emeritus
City of Corpus Christi



July 11, 1988

Texas State Aquarium™

The Honorable Jim Wright
Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States Congress
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I was so pleased to hear that you will be visiting Corpus Christi on August 5th for the Fortieth Annual Convention of the American G. I. Forum. I am writing to ask you for a few minutes of your time while you are in Corpus Christi to visit with Mr. John Dorn, President of the Texas State Aquarium Board of Trustees, to discuss a special project we are working on regarding the aquarium. We are also asking Dr. Hector P. Garcia, Rep. Solomon Ortiz and Rep. Kika de la Garza to join us at this time.

The 69th Texas State Legislature designated the non-profit public aquarium that is currently under construction in Corpus Christi as the "Official Aquarium of Texas." Our goal is to build a world-class aquarium for the people of Texas, highlighting the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Phase One is guaranteed by \$14 Million in support from the City of Corpus Christi and \$9.6 Million in private donations. Our prime objective is for the aquarium to serve as a focal point of information, education, entertainment and discovery for our citizens and visitors to Texas.

I have enclosed some additional information regarding the aquarium project that I think you will find most interesting and should bring you up to date on what we believe is one of the most exciting and challenging projects being planned for the State of Texas today.

I am looking forward to hearing from you soon and welcoming you to Corpus Christi again.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luther Jones". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Luther Jones
Mayor Emeritus
City of Corpus Christi

cc: Dr. Hector P. Garcia ✓
Honorable Solomon P. Ortiz
Honorable Kika de la Garza