

## NEWS RELEASE

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE



# Lloyd Doggett



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**(Washington, D.C.)** Congressman Lloyd Doggett today announced that Congress has approved legislation, which the President is expected to sign, that will allow the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a comprehensive reconnaissance study of flooding in an Onion Creek neighborhood.

"This watershed poses a very serious flood threat to more than 800 Austin families and any real solution to this problem will require cooperation at the city, county and federal levels," said Doggett. "A broad, comprehensive study by the Corps is essential if we are going to bring all of the groups involved in this together to solve this problem," concluded Doggett.

The area to be studied lies in a bend of Onion Creek south of William Cannon and east of South Pleasant Valley Road, near the Roy Kizer Golf Course. Studies conducted in the early 1970s, when the effected subdivisions were platted, did not indicate a significant flood danger. However, more recent studies have shown that the earlier assessments were incomplete. Current models predict that approximately 460 of these homes are in the 25 year flood plain and 840 homes are in the 100 year flood plain, more than 40 of these to a depth of 10 feet.

Congressman Doggett has worked closely with the City of Austin on resolving this problem. The City had completed an earlier study of the area but a Corps study is necessary before any further federal funds will be available to address the problem.

"This is a serious problem that greatly affects the lives of our citizens. We know there are no quick-fix solutions. Proposition 5 on the Nov. 3 ballot would take an immediate step to help those most at-risk. This study takes the next important step. It will prepare us for a long-term solution in which regional planning will play a vital role," said Mayor Kirk Watson.

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Council Member Daryl Slusher added, "This issue is about people's homes and lives. It needs a long-lasting, comprehensive solution. This study provides the best opportunity so far for such a solution. The Flood Plain Task Force should be commended for its yeoman's work in analyzing the problems in Onion Creek and other flood plains and recommending improvements."

The Flood Plain Task Force is scheduled to present its findings to the Austin City Council today.

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