



TO: Judge Kyle Kutcher – Guadalupe County

In order to protect the mission of the SS American Memorial Foundation and ensure perpetual protection of this area of Guadalupe County we have begun to work with Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas (GSA) to place a conservation easement on the Lazy U Ranch and expand the footprint of this memorial to include neighboring properties.

To that end, GSA is applying for new grant opportunities that allow for property acquisition and is also working with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program to leverage out-of-area funding to help protect up to 531 Acres surrounding and including the ranch. GSA will be requesting \$1~2 Million from the Horizon Foundation for property Acquisition and \$1M from JBSA for conservation easement funding, however, both programs are very competitive and rely on local area matches to show community interest to the funders.

As a REPI partner of JBSA, GSA is currently working on a project that the City of Cibolo will partially fund to protect open space at the northern edge of Guadalupe County with a significant JBSA funding component to the project. With the support of **Guadalupe County**, a 1:1 match would help to ensure these funders' resources are used for this critical resource here on the Guadalupe River. My family has already agreed to donate a minimum of 63 acres of our family property to the SS American Memorial Foundation as a partial match for the REPI request.

If you have time Clay Thompson, from GSA, and I could meet at your office to discuss the project in more detail.

With respect,

Craig G Russell – President/Founder

SS American Memorial Foundation

Lazy U Ranch – Owner

450 Neumann Rd.

Seguin, TX 78155

