

July 17, 2017

Dear Governor Abbott:

Texas cities are among the fastest growing in the country and play a critical role in the Texas economy. We believe that several of the proposals announced as part of the call for the 85th Special Legislative Session will directly impede the ability of Texas cities to provide vital services that reflect the priorities of local residents. We would like the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the role cities play in attracting jobs and investments to support the prosperity of the State of Texas.

Recent reports project that the largest cities in our state will increase in population by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years. People are moving to Texas cities because we are home to strong job markets and places where they want to live and raise their families. To prepare for this rapid growth, we must continue to have the tools to manage our budgets, improve infrastructure, provide critical services like public safety and pass policies reflective of local resident priorities. Harmful proposals such as revenue and spending caps, limiting annexation authority and other measures preempting local development ordinances that directly harm our ability to plan for future growth and continue to serve as the economic engines of Texas.

As Mayors, we are dedicated to delivering quality services to our residents and attracting new businesses to move Texas forward. We respectfully ask to schedule a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss your specific concerns with Texas cities and how we can work together to ensure a productive partnership for Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Williams", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Jeff Williams
City of Arlington

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Adler", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Steve Adler
City of Austin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe McComb", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Joe McComb
City of Corpus Christi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Rawlings", written over a horizontal line.

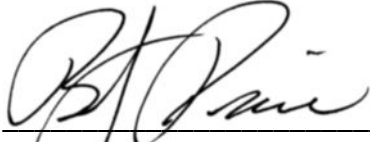
Mayor Michael S. Rawlings
City of Dallas




Mayor Chris Watts
City of Denton




Mayor Dee Margo
City of El Paso




Mayor Betsy Price
City of Fort Worth



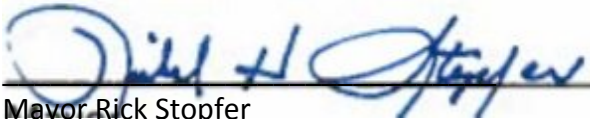
Mayor Jeff Cheney
City of Frisco



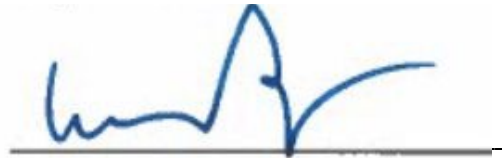
Mayor James Yarbrough
City of Galveston



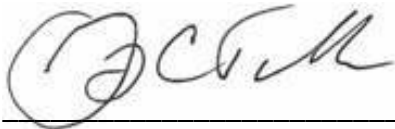
Mayor Sylvester Turner
City of Houston



Mayor Rick Stopfer
City of Irving



Mayor Dan Pope
City of Lubbock



Mayor George Fuller
City of McKinney




Mayor Harry LaRosiliere
City of Plano



Mayor Ron Nirenberg
City of San Antonio



Mayor John Thomaides
City of San Marcos



Mayor Joe R. Zimmerman
City of Sugar Land



Mayor Ginger Nelson
City of Amarillo