

July 15, 2020

Honorable Members of the Texas Delegation:

We are pleased that in light of the continued public health, economic and fiscal challenges our nation faces, there appears to be a growing bipartisan consensus that Congress should enact a fifth coronavirus relief bill by the end of this month. As you work on that fifth measure, we want to once again thank you for all you have done to address the COVID-19 pandemic and the related economic and fiscal crisis. Congress has taken swift and bold action commensurate with the scope of the crisis and we appreciate your efforts to help our nation address this challenge. Unfortunately, as the virus surges once again in Texas, more federal assistance will be needed for the state and its cities to weather the unprecedented economic downturn we face. As such, we want to reiterate our urgent request that you quickly pass an additional measure that includes *direct and flexible fiscal assistance to all cities* across the nation.

The budget calamity looming over local governments is real and it requires extraordinary measures. As the numbers recently released by Comptroller Hegar illustrate, Texas is not immune from this pain. He just reported a \$650 million decrease in tax revenue over the past month and \$5.7 billion since the pandemic began, with June sales tax revenue 6.5 percent below the June 2019 level. Please note that these numbers largely predate the recent COVID-19 surge. We therefore fear that state and local revenue is going to take time to rebound. We also fear that if we do not stabilize our economy, we could see a drop in property tax revenue next year.

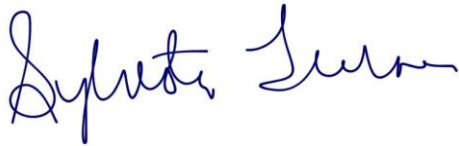
All of our cities are facing this devastating reduction in revenue through no fault of our own. In addition, we are facing this fiscal crisis at the same time we are facing major public health and public safety challenges, leading to an exponential increase in demand for our services, especially on the public health and safety front. Texas cities are major employers that provide core local government services to tens of millions of Texans that are critical to public health, safety, and welfare and that serve as the foundation of our economy. However, we are all mandated to balance our budgets; absent direct and flexible assistance, we will be forced to cut our workforce and reduce services, exacerbating the economic and public health crises created by this pandemic. Indeed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that state and local governments have already cut 1.6 million jobs since the pandemic began, including 91,000 in Texas. With the pandemic still with us, we fear that those numbers will only get worse without direct fiscal assistance, leading to a drag on economic recovery and hurting efforts to safely reopen our economy.

There is broad support for direct fiscal assistance to local governments. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell has endorsed it in testimony to Congress and in other public remarks. Closer to home, Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Robert Kaplan has also voiced support for fiscal assistance to state and local governments. In addition, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and many other national organizations have called for fiscal assistance to state and local governments.

Texas metropolitan areas account for 93.1 percent of the Texas economy. Vibrant metropolitan areas with strong, fiscally stable local governments will be key to managing the reopening of the Texas economy successfully and safely. Simply put, it will be impossible to have fiscally stable local governments without direct and flexible fiscal assistance from the federal government.

Thank you again for your efforts during this unprecedented time and for your attention to our request. We are confident that, working together, our nation can overcome this crisis.

Sincerely,



Sylvester Turner, Mayor  
City of Houston



Ron Nirenberg, Mayor  
City of San Antonio



Steve Adler, Mayor  
City of Austin



Eric Johnson, Mayor  
City of Dallas



Betsy Price, Mayor  
City of Fort Worth



Dee Margo, Mayor  
City of El Paso



Jeff Williams, Mayor  
City of Arlington



Joe McComb, Mayor  
City of Corpus Christi



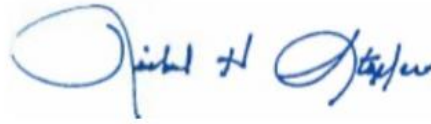
Dan Pope, Mayor  
City of Lubbock



Ron Jensen, Mayor  
City of Grand Prairie



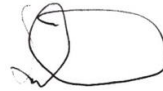
Pete Saenz, Mayor  
City of Laredo



Rick Stopher, Mayor  
City of Irving



Chris Watts, Mayor  
City of Denton



Joe Zimmerman, Mayor  
City of Sugar Land



Jose Segarra, Mayor  
City of Killeen



Kyle Deaver, Mayor  
City of Waco



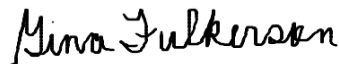
Connie Schroeder, Mayor  
City of Bastrop



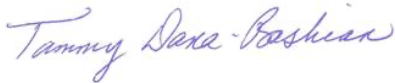
Trey Mendez, Mayor  
City of Brownsville



Gaylynn Burris, Mayor  
City of Bowie



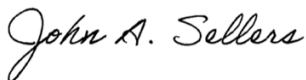
Gina Fulkerson, Mayor  
City of Wimberley



Tammy Dana-Bashian, Mayor  
City of Rowlett



Barry L. Gordon, Mayor  
City of Duncanville



John A. Sellers, Mayor  
City of Sulphur Springs



Larry Vernon, Mayor  
City of Eastland

*Shelley Brophy*

Shelley Brophy, Mayor  
City of Nacogdoches

*Emmanuel Wealthy*

Emmanuel Wealthy, Mayor  
City of Wilmer

*Clyde C. Hairston*

Clyde C. Hairston, Mayor  
City of Lancaster

*Andrew S. Friedberg*

Andrew S. Friedberg, Mayor  
City of Bellaire

*Stephen L. Santellana*

Stephen L. Santellana, Mayor  
City of Wichita Falls

*Henry Wilson*

Henry Wilson, Mayor  
City of Hurst

*Donald Baird*

Donald Baird, Mayor  
City of Colmesneil

*Kenny Phillips*

Kenny Phillips, Mayor  
City of Mobile City

*BJ McGinnis*

BJ McGinnis, Mayor  
City of Blanket

*Terri W. Brown*

Terri W. Brown, Mayor  
City of Marshall

*Sergio Coronado*

Sergio Coronado, Mayor  
City of Hidalgo

*Sara Post Meyer  
Mayor, City of Cuero*

Sara Post, Mayor  
City of Cuero

*Dr. Ambrosio Hernandez*

Dr. Ambrosio Hernandez, Mayor  
City of Pharr

*Rodger Brown*

Rodger Brown, Mayor  
City of Clyde



Cathy Skurow, Mayor  
City of Portland



Michael Byrum-Bratsen, Mayor  
City of Iowa Colony



Jane Hughson, Mayor  
City of San Marcos



Dr. Ianthia Fisher, Mayor  
City of Crockett

**Travis Hall**

Travis Hall, Jr., Mayor  
City of Pleasanton



Pam Gosline, Mayor  
City of Vernon

**Joe Passanisi**

Joe Passanisi, Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Ravenna



Victor A. Contreras, Mayor  
City of Marion



Laura Bianco, Mayor  
Laura Bianco, Mayor  
City of Dalworthington Gardens

*Sharion R. Scott*

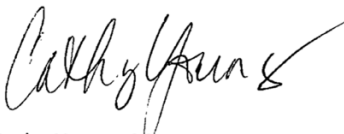
Sharion R. Scott, Mayor  
City of Wolfe City

**Celestino A. Zambrano**

Celestino A. Zambrano, Mayor  
City of Gregory

*Terrill Bartlett*

Terrill Bartlett, Mayor  
City of Canadian



Cathy Young, Mayor  
City of Chillicothe



Roy McDonald, Mayor  
City of West Orange

*Wyman Williams*

Wyman Williams, Mayor  
City of Commerce



Cyndie Rathburn, Mayor  
Town of Rancho Viejo

*Anita R. Rodriguez*

Anita R. Rodriguez, Mayor  
City of Yoakum



John Packer, Mayor  
City of Marble Falls



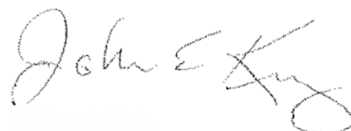
David Dreiling, Mayor  
City of Greenville

*Willie Leal*

Willie Leal, Mayor  
City of Poteet



Manuel V. Baeza, Mayor  
City of Marfa



John E. King, Mayor  
City of Rockdale

*Patrick McNulty*

Patrick McNulty, Mayor  
City of South Padre Island



Jim McInnis, Mayor  
City of Hamilton



Benjamin Gomez, Mayor  
City of San Benito

*David Rutledge*

David Rutledge, Mayor  
City of Bridge City



Antonio Araujo, Mayor

Antonio Araujo, Mayor  
City of San Elizario

*Allyson Crenshaw*

Allyson Crenshaw, Mayor  
City of Robert Lee

*Mark Groneman*

Mark Groneman, Mayor  
City of Vega

*C.W. Williams*

C.W. Williams, Mayor  
City of Wells

*Ramrio Rodriguez*

Ramrio Rodriguez, Mayor  
City of Palmhurst

*Nin Hulett*

Nin Hulett, Mayor  
City of Granbury

*Johnnie Hauerland*

Johnnie Hauerland, Mayor  
City of Meridian

*Rusty Brockman*

Rusty Brockman, Mayor  
City of New Braunfels

*Gilbert Gomez*

Gilbert Gomez, Mayor  
City of Robstown

*Vicki Sanson*

Vicki Sanson, Mayor  
City of Lavon

*B.J. Alvarado*

B.J. Alvarado, Mayor  
City of Booker

*Gerald Joubert*

Gerald Joubert, Mayor  
City of Forest Hill

*Charles D. Jessup IV*

Charles D. Jessup IV, Mayor  
City of Meadow's Place

*George Coulam*

George Coulam, Mayor  
City of Todd Mission

*Bob F. Brown*

Bob F. Brown, Mayor  
City of Lufkin

*Bruno J. Lozano*

Bruno J. Lozano, Mayor  
City of Del Rio

*Suzanne de Leon*

Suzanne de Leon, Mayor  
City of Balcones Heights

*Caroline Wadzeck*

Caroline Wadzeck, Mayor  
City of Dayton



Bob Sims, Mayor

Bob Sims, Mayor  
City of Breckenridge



Cary Preston, Mayor  
City of Childress

*Lisa B. Pierce*

Lisa B. Pierce, Mayor  
City of Kirby



Thurman Bill Bartie, Mayor  
City of Port Arthur

*Ed Tidwell*

Ed Tidwell, Mayor  
City of Lago Vista

*Sandy Cox*

Sandy Cox, Mayor  
City of Lakeway

*Lynn Scott*

Lynn Scott, Mayor  
City of Panorama Village

*Mike Hendricks*

Mike Hendricks, Mayor  
City of Luling

*Carl Marino*

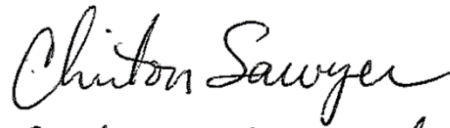
Carl Marino, Mayor  
City of Fayetteville

*Tim Handren*

Tim Handren, Mayor  
City of Boerne

*Stephen Alonis*

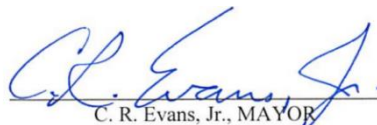
Stephen Alonis, Mayor  
Town of Quintana



Clinton Sawyer, Mayor  
City of Amherst

*Cheryl Sanders*

Cheryl Sanders, Mayor  
City of Anahuac

  
C. R. Evans, Jr., MAYOR

C.R. Evans, Mayor  
City of Overton

*Becky Ames*

Becky Ames, Mayor  
City of Beaumont



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The Honorable Marc Veasey  
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The Honorable Brian Babin  
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