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 form 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  
Connie Schroeder, Mayor  
City of Bastrop

Trey Mendez  
Trey Mendez, Mayor  
City of Brownsville

Gaylynn Burris  
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  
John A. Sellers, Mayor  
City of Sulphur Springs

Larry Vernon, Mayor  
City of Eastland
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shelley Brophy</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
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<td>Emmanuel Wealthy</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
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<td>Clyde C. Hairston</td>
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<td>City of Lancaster</td>
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<td>Andrew S. Friedberg</td>
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<td>City of Bellaire</td>
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<td>Stephen L. Santellana</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
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<td>Henry Wilson</td>
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<td>City of Hurst</td>
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<td>Donald Baird</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td>City of Colmesneil</td>
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<td>Kenny Phillips</td>
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<td>City of Mobile City</td>
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<td>BJ McGinnis</td>
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<td>Terri. W. Brown</td>
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<td>Sergio Coronado</td>
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<td>Sara Post</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td>City of Cuero</td>
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<td>Dr. Ambrosio Hernandez</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td>City of Pharr</td>
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<td>Rodger Brown</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td>City of Clyde</td>
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Cathy Skurow, Mayor
City of Portland

Michael Byrum-Bratsen
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, Mayor
City of Wolfe City

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Celestino A. Zambrano, Mayor
City of Gregory

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

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Anita R. Rodriguez, Mayor
City of Yoakum

David Dreiling, Mayor
City of Greenville

Manuel V. Baeza, Mayor
City of Marfa

Patrick McNulty
Patrick McNulty, Mayor
City of South Padre Island

Benjamin Gomez, Mayor
City of San Benito

Antonio Araujo, Mayor
City of San Elizario

Cyndie Rathburn, Mayor
Town of Rancho Viejo

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City of Marble Falls

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Willie Leal, Mayor
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City of Rockdale

Jim McInnis, Mayor
City of Hamilton

David Rutledge
David Rutledge, Mayor
City of Bridge City

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Allyson Crenshaw, Mayor
City of Robert Lee
Mark Groneman
Mark Groneman, Mayor
City of Vega

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Ramiro Rodriguez, Mayor
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City of Meridian

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City of Robstown

B.J. Alvarado, Mayor
City of Booker

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City of Meadow’s Place

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City of Lufkin

Suzanne de Leon, Mayor
City of Balcones Heights

C.W. Williams, Mayor
City of Wells

Nin Hulett
Nin Hulett, Mayor
City of Granbury

Rusty Brockman, Mayor
City of New Braunfels

Vicki Sanson, Mayor
City of Lavon

Gerald Joubert, Mayor
City of Forest Hill

George Coulam, Mayor
City of Todd Mission

Bruno J. Lozano, Mayor
City of Del Rio

Caroline Wadzeck, Mayor
City of Dayton
Bob Sims, Mayor
City of Breckenridge

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Lisa B. Pierce, Mayor
City of Kirby

Ed Tidwell
Ed Tidwell, Mayor
City of Lago Vista

Lynn Scott
Lynn Scott, Mayor
City of Panorama Village

Carl Marino
Carl Marino, Mayor
City of Fayetteville

Stephan Alongis
Stephen Alongis, Mayor
Town of Quintana

Cheryl Sanders, Mayor
City of Anahuac

Becky Ames, Mayor
City of Beaumont

Cary Preston, Mayor
City of Childress

Thurman Bill Bartie, Mayor
City of Port Arthur

Sandy Cox
Sandy Cox, Mayor
City of Lakeway

Mike Hendricks
Mike Hendricks, Mayor
City of Luling

Tim Handren
Tim Handren, Mayor
City of Boerne

Clinton Sawyer, Mayor
City of Amherst

C.R. Evans, Mayor
City of Overton
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The Honorable Veronica Escobar
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The Honorable Lloyd Doggett  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
doug.molof@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Brian Babin  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
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