



Texas House of Representatives

June 10, 2013

Dear Governor Perry:

As you know, higher education enrollment in the state has seen substantial growth in recent years. This expansion, which is anticipated to continue for years to come, has brought with it a need for new and updated buildings and infrastructure at our public institutions.

In the recent 83rd Regular Session of the Legislature, a proposal to help finance the construction of approximately 60 university projects with Tuition Revenue Bonds fell just short of passing. Despite receiving affirmative votes in both the House and the Senate, a final compromise could not be reached prior to the final deadline for consideration.

This failure will have a substantial impact on higher education in Texas. Many projects will be put on hold for at least another two years, and some may disappear altogether. Meanwhile, lack of capacity may lead some of our best and brightest students to pursue their education at updated campuses outside of our state, while a growing number of students attending Texas public universities will continue to be taught in outdated, substandard, or out-of-the-way facilities. We do not want to see the withering of our state's academic competitiveness.

We, the undersigned members of the Texas House, respectfully request that you add much needed authority for campus construction bonds to the call for the current Special Session. In light of today's historically low interest rates and the critical need for investment in our higher education facilities, it is vital that we address this issue without further delay. Moreover, approval of these projects will bring notable benefits to our economy, with the construction and ongoing operations resulting in a significant multiplier effect in local communities and throughout the state.

A variety of bills have been filed on the matter, and broad agreement already exists between the House and the Senate. We are certain that any remaining differences can be quickly worked out once you have placed the item on the agenda. It should also be noted that the contingency funding has already been included in the budget for the 2014-15 biennium.

Thank you for your consideration of our request during what we know is a busy time in your office as you consider legislation passed during the regular session, and thank you for your service to the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jim Pitts in black ink.

Rep. Jim Pitts

Handwritten signature of Dan Branch in black ink.

Rep. Dan Branch

Handwritten signature of John Otto in black ink.

Rep. John Otto

Rep. Drew Darby

Rep. Donna Howard

Rep. Diane Patrick

Rep. Alma Allen

Rep. Carol Alvarado

Rep. Rafael Anchia

Rep. Trent Ashby

Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock

Rep. Cecil Bell, Jr.

Rep. William "Bill" Callegari

Rep. Terry Canales

Rep. Travis Clardy

Rep. Garnet Coleman

Rep. Philip Cortez

Rep. John Davis

Rep. Sarah Davis

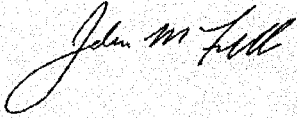
Rep. Dawanna Dukes

Rep. Joe Deshotel


Rep. Craig Eiland

Rep. Joe Farias

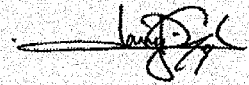
Rep. Jessica Farrar



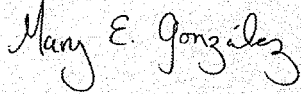
Rep. John Frullo




Rep. Helen Giddings



Rep. Larry Gonzales



Rep. Mary González



Rep. Naomi Gonzalez



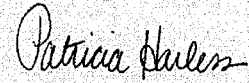
Rep. R.D. "Bobby" Guerra



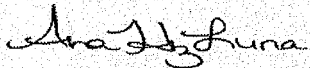
Rep. Ryan Guillen



Rep. Roland Gutierrez



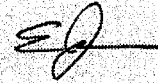
Rep. Patricia Harless



Rep. Ana Hernandez Luna



Rep. Abel Herrero



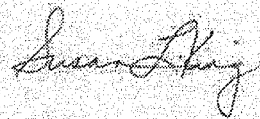
Rep. Eric Johnson



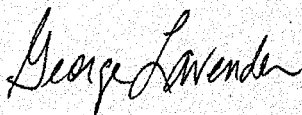
Rep. Kyle Kacal



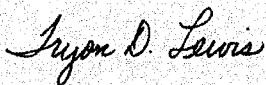
Rep. Jim Keffer



Rep. Susan King



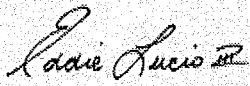
Rep. George Lavender



Rep. Tryon Lewis



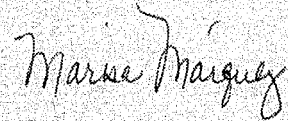
Rep. Oscar Longoria



Rep. Eddie Lucio III



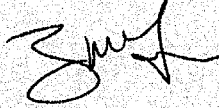
Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon



Rep. Marisa Márquez



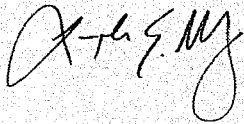
Rep. Armando "Mando" Martinez



Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer



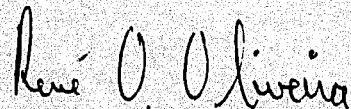
Rep. Geanie Morrison



Rep. Joseph Moody



Rep. Elliott Naishtat



Rep. René O. Oliveira



Rep. Mary Ann Perez



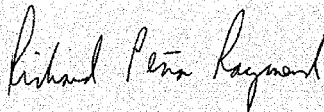
Rep. Joe Pickett



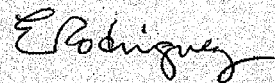
Rep. John Raney



Rep. Bennett Ratliff



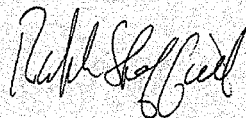
Rep. Richard Peña Raymond




Rep. Eddie Rodriguez



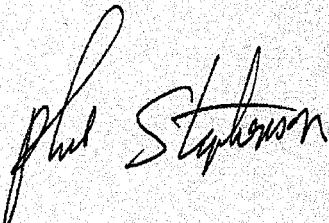
Rep. J.D. Sheffield



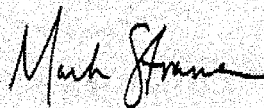
Rep. Ralph Sheffield



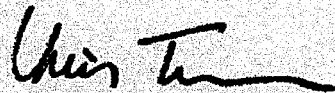
Rep. John Smithee



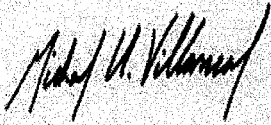
Rep. Phil Stephenson




Rep. Mark Strama



Rep. Chris Turner



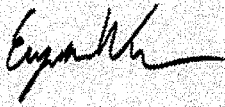
Rep. Mike Villarreal



Rep. Hubert Vo



Rep. Armando Walle



Rep. Gene Wu



Rep. Paul Workman



Rep. John Zerwas