

April 15, 2020

Honorable members of the Texas Congressional Delegation:

Thank you for all you have done to address the COVID-19 pandemic and the related economic and fiscal crisis. Congress has been swift in passing three coronavirus relief bills and we hope that you will soon pass a fourth 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.

We appreciate the inclusion of the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act. We are pleased that the CARES Act's authors recognized the importance of direct fiscal assistance to states and cities. However, only cities with a population of 500,000 or more will receive direct fiscal assistance from this Fund. This language leaves out hundreds of Texas cities with millions of residents. We simply do not understand the population cutoff in the CARES Act. Simply put, there is no magic force that will protect local governments under 500,000 population from revenue losses during this crisis.

Looking ahead to a fourth bill, we respectfully request that a fourth bill include **direct and flexible fiscal assistance to all cities** across the nation. We are pleased that Representative Joe Neguse (D-CO) has introduced legislation (HR 6467), the Coronavirus Community Relief Act, which would appropriate \$250 billion for direct fiscal assistance to units of local government with a population below 500,000. We understand that Congress is also considering a proposal to allocate \$150 billion in funding to states and cities using the CDBG formula. These proposals or a similar one would provide us with much needed assistance as we address this pandemic and its fiscal and economic impacts.

In addition, for those of us fortunate to be receiving an allocation from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, Congress limited how we can use these funds. Looking ahead to a fourth bill, we would respectfully ask that you support a **correction to the Coronavirus Relief Fund that gives us more flexibility** and allows us to fill the huge holes in our budgets. We also ask that you contact Treasury and encourage them to provide maximum flexibility in the use of these funds.

All of our cities are facing a devastating collapse in revenue at the same time we are facing an exponential increase in demand for our services, especially on the public safety front, which accounts for the bulk of local government budgets. 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.

We also fear the impact that this crisis could have on the municipal bond market and our bond ratings. State and local governments account for 75% of our nation's infrastructure investment, with most of those investments financed with municipal bonds. Absent direct and flexible

assistance to local governments, the havoc this crisis wreaks on municipal budgets could dampen critical infrastructure investments for many years.

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

Sincerely,



Jeff Williams, Mayor  
City of Arlington



Steve Adler, Mayor  
City of Austin



Sylvester Turner, Mayor  
City of Houston



Betsy Price, Mayor  
City of Fort Worth



Ron Jensen, Mayor  
City of Grand Prairie



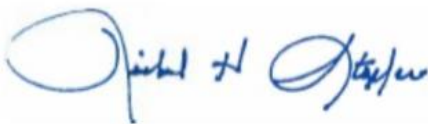
Eric Johnson, Mayor  
City of Dallas



Ron Nirenberg, Mayor  
City of San Antonio



Joe McComb, Mayor  
City of Corpus Christi



Rick Stopher, Mayor  
City of Irving



Harry LaRosiliere, Mayor  
City of Plano



George Fuller, Mayor  
City of McKinney



Chris Watts, Mayor  
City of Denton



Stephen L. Santellana, Mayor  
City of Wichita Falls



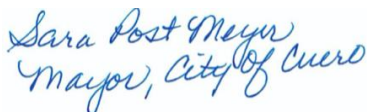
Christy Yates, Mayor  
City of Turkey



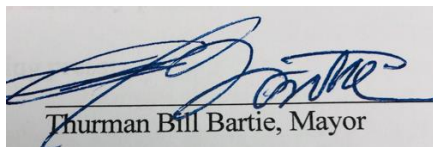
Pat White, Mayor  
City of Loraine



Connie Schroeder, Mayor  
City of Bastrop



Sara Post, Mayor  
City of Cuero



Thurman Bartie, Mayor  
City of Port Arthur



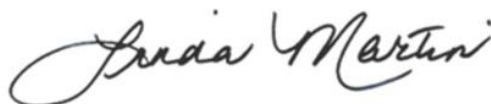
Robert M. Gorton, Mayor  
City of Cross Roads



Rhonda Williams, Mayor  
City of Blue Ridge



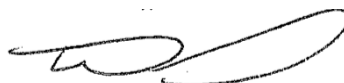
Caroline Wadzeck, Mayor  
City of Dayton



Linda Martin, Mayor  
City of Euless



Jimmy Cochran, Mayor  
City of Hooks



David Allen, Mayor  
City of Prairie View



Dr. Ambrosio Hernandez, Mayor  
City of Pharr



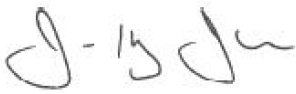
Michael Barnhart, Mayor  
City of Lake Dallas



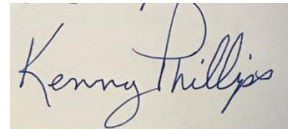
Julie Masters, Mayor  
City of Dickinson



Larry Vernon, Mayor  
City of Eastland



Jeff Jordan, Mayor  
City of Kaufman



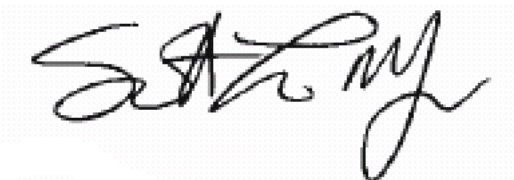
Kenny Phillips, Mayor  
City of Mobile City



Herman D. Earwood, Mayor  
City of River Oaks



Laurie Blanco, Mayor  
City of Dalworthington Gardens



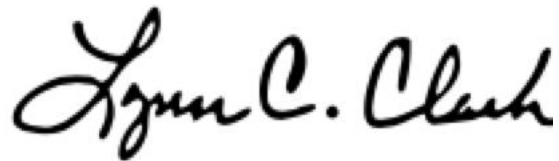
Scott LeMay, Mayor  
City of Garland



Janet Moerbe, Mayor  
City of LaGrange



Darren Evans, Mayor  
City of Hawk Cove



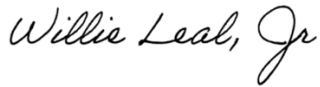
Lynn Clark, Mayor  
City of Hickory Creek



Manny Baeza, Mayor  
City of Marfa



Victor A. Contreras, Mayor  
City of Marion



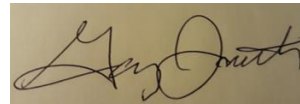
Willie Leal, Jr., Mayor  
City of Poteet



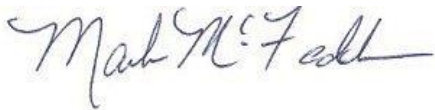
Cathy Skurow, Mayor  
City of Portland



Nick Dixon, Mayor  
City of Mont Belvieu



Geary Smith, Mayor  
City of Mexia



Mark McFadden, Mayor  
City of Olton



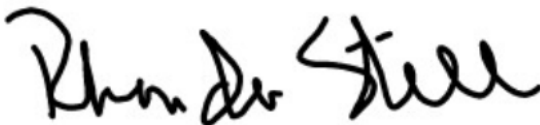
Bob Bruggeman, Mayor  
City of Texarkana



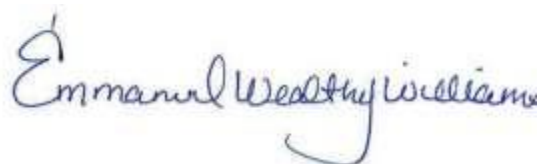
William D. Sciscoe, Mayor  
City of Dish

**David L. Dreiling**

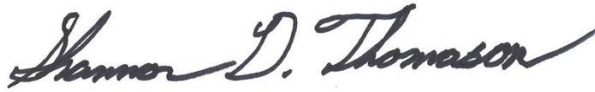
David L. Dreiling, Mayor  
City of Greenville




Rhonda Stell, Mayor  
City of Johnson City



Emmanuel Wealthy-Williams, Mayor  
City of Wilmer



Shannon D. Thomason, Mayor  
City of Big Spring



Don Smith, Mayor  
City of Van



Eddie Daffern, Mayor  
City of Staples



Rudy Durham, Mayor  
City of Lewisville



Tom Daly, Mayor  
City of Selma



Jane Hughson, Mayor  
City of San Marcos



Micki Ball, Mayor  
City of Sandy Oaks



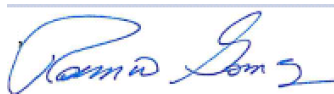
Henry Wilson, Mayor  
City of Hurst



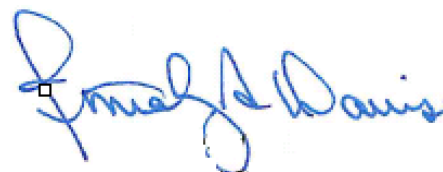
Steve Dixon, Mayor  
City of Flower Mound



Cathy Young, Mayor  
City of Chillicothe



Ramiro Gomez, Mayor  
City of Aransas Pass



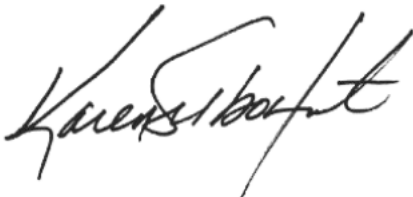
Timothy A. Davis, Mayor  
City of Temple



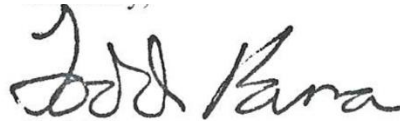
Pat Smith, Mayor  
City of Matador



Andy Brauning, Mayor  
City of Huntsville



Karen Selbo Hunt, Mayor  
City of Coppell



Todd Kana, Mayor  
City of Magnolia



Michael Ray, Mayor  
City of Lefors



Gilbert Gomez, Mayor  
City of Robstown



William Parten, Mayor  
City of Madisonville



Tammy Dana-Bashian, Mayor  
City of Rowlett



Stephen Mason, Mayor  
City of Cedar Hill



Sergio Coronado, Mayor  
City of Hidalgo



Jolene Vanover, Mayor  
City of Alice



Gary Hinder, Mayor  
City of Canyon

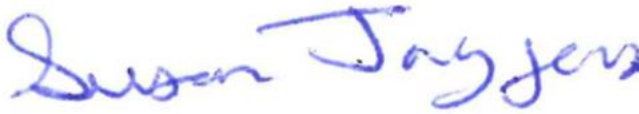




John "Buzz" Fullen, Mayor  
City of Henderson

*Rebecca Autrey Mayor, Megargel, Texas*

Rebecca Autrey, Mayor  
City of Megargel



Susan Jagers, Mayor  
City of Wimberley



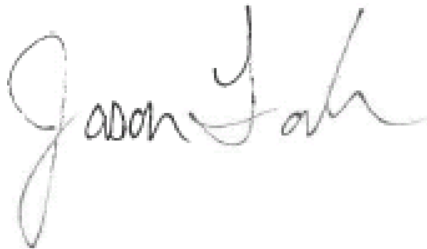
Arthur L. Miner, Mayor  
City of Watauga



Tim Boyd, Mayor  
City of Colorado City



Balis Dailey, Mayor  
City of Grapeland



Jason Tabor, Mayor  
City of Santa Fe



Barron Casteel, Mayor  
City of New Braunfels



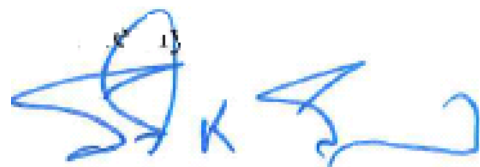
Joe Minkley, Mayor  
City of Claude



Daniel Valenzuela, City Manager  
City of San Angelo



Benjamin Gomez, Mayor  
City of San Benito



Steve Spicer, Mayor  
City of Jamaica Beach

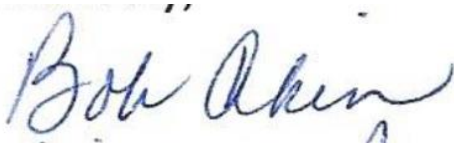




C.R. Evans, Jr., Mayor  
City of Overton



Olga H. Maldonado, Mayor  
City of La Feria



Bob Akin, Mayor  
City of Red Lick



Ronnie Parker, Mayor  
City of Ingleside



Cathy Bennett, Mayor  
City of Ivanhoe



Janet Meyers, Mayor  
City of Aubrey



Debbie Stout, Mayor  
City of Allen



Mark Turner, Mayor  
City of Wills Point



Mike Hendricks, Mayor  
City of Luling



James D. Sutton, Mayor  
City of Kenedy



Karen Hale, Mayor  
City of Plantersville



Joshua Brinkley, Mayor  
City of Valley View



George R. Haehn, Mayor  
City of Buda



Alan Shoemaker, Mayor  
City of West Tawakoni

*Patrick McNulty*

Patrick McNulty, Mayor  
City of South Padre Island

*Janet Gott*

Janet Gott, Mayor  
City of Denison

*Tim Handren*

Tim Handren, Mayor  
City of Boerne

*Anthony W. Groves*

Anthony Groves, Mayor  
City of Brady

*Andrew S. Friedberg*

Andrew S. Friedberg, Mayor  
City of Bellaire

*Marion Grayson*

Marion Grayson, Mayor  
City of Belton

*JR Trevino*

JR Trevino, Mayor  
City of Castle Hills

*Jeff Cheney*

Jeff Cheney, Mayor  
City of Frisco

*Jeff Norman*

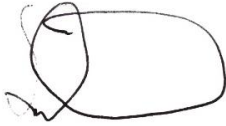
Jeff Norman, Mayor  
City of Mabank

*Suzanne de Leon*

Suzanne de Leon, Mayor  
City of Balcones Heights



Barry L. Gordon, Mayor  
City of Duncanville



Joe Zimmerman, Mayor  
City of Sugar Land



Gwen Boallion, Mayor  
City of Bedias

CC:

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510  
[jacob\\_smith@cornyn.senate.gov](mailto:jacob_smith@cornyn.senate.gov)

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510  
[austin\\_smithson@cruz.seante.gov](mailto:austin_smithson@cruz.seante.gov)

The Honorable Louie Gohmert  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[sean.griffin@mail.house.gov](mailto:sean.griffin@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Dan Crenshaw  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[matt.hodge@mail.house.gov](mailto:matt.hodge@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Van Taylor  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[jett.thompson@mail.house.gov](mailto:jett.thompson@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable John Ratcliffe  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[ebbie.yazdani@mail.house.gov](mailto:ebbie.yazdani@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Lance Gooden  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[gabriela.perdichizzi@mail.house.gov](mailto:gabriela.perdichizzi@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Ron Wright  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[blair.rottert@mail.house.gov](mailto:blair.rottert@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Lizzie Fletcher  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[ben.jackson@mail.house.gov](mailto:ben.jackson@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[jeff.billman@mail.house.gov](mailto:jeff.billman@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Al Green  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[matt.rowland@mail.house.gov](mailto:matt.rowland@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Michael McCaul  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[cameron.poursoltan@mail.house.gov](mailto:cameron.poursoltan@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Mike Conaway  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[michael.harder@mail.house.gov](mailto:michael.harder@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Mac Thornberry  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[kamal.patel@mail.house.gov](mailto:kamal.patel@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Vicente Gonzalez  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[louise.bentsen@mail.house.gov](mailto:louise.bentsen@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Bill Flores  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[christopher.taylor@mail.house.gov](mailto:christopher.taylor@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Jodey Arrington  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[dominique.spadavecchia@mail.house.gov](mailto:dominique.spadavecchia@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Chip Roy  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[jason.rogers@mail.house.gov](mailto:jason.rogers@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Will Hurd  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[chris.malen@mail.house.gov](mailto:chris.malen@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Roger Williams  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[patrick.arlantico@mail.house.gov](mailto:patrick.arlantico@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Michael Cloud  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[mark.kelly@mail.house.gov](mailto:mark.kelly@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Kay Granger  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[suzi.plasencia@mail.house.gov](mailto:suzi.plasencia@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Randy Weber  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[william.christian@mail.house.gov](mailto:william.christian@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Veronica Escobar  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[jacqueline.sanchez@mail.house.gov](mailto:jacqueline.sanchez@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Sheila Jackson-Lee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[gregory.berry@mail.house.gov](mailto:gregory.berry@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Joaquin Castro  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[ben.thomas@mail.house.gov](mailto:ben.thomas@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Pete Olson  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[michael.richards@mail.house.gov](mailto:michael.richards@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Kenny Marchant  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[john.deoudes@mail.house.gov](mailto:john.deoudes@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Michael Burgess  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[rachel.huggins@mail.house.gov](mailto:rachel.huggins@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[travis.knight@mail.house.gov](mailto:travis.knight@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Sylvia Garcia  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[patrick.bond2@mail.house.gov](mailto:patrick.bond2@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable John Carter  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[grady.bourn@mail.house.gov](mailto:grady.bourn@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Marc Veasey  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[nicole.varner@mail.house.gov](mailto:nicole.varner@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[doug.molof@mail.house.gov](mailto:doug.molof@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[ken.nealy@mail.house.gov](mailto:ken.nealy@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Colin Allred  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[janelle.mcclure@mail.house.gov](mailto:janelle.mcclure@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Filemon Vela  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[karen.delossantos@mail.house.gov](mailto:karen.delossantos@mail.house.gov)

The Honorable Brian Babin  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515  
[steve.j@mail.house.gov](mailto:steve.j@mail.house.gov)