



Governor Greg Abbott  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711

April 10, 2019

Dear Governor Abbott,

We write today to respectfully express our opposition to the Committee Substitute for House Bill 2 (CSB 2).

This measure would have significant negative impacts on the larger cities and counties in the Austin-San Antonio Corridor, including Austin, San Antonio, San Marcos, New Braunfels, Round Rock, and Georgetown, and Bexar, Comal, Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties. This region has a current population of 4.5 million and is expected to grow to an estimated 7-8 million by 2040-50.

By severely limiting the ability of these jurisdictions to raise needed revenue, CSB 2 will inevitably require reductions to police and fire protection, street construction and maintenance, public health assistance, parks, trails, and civic amenities key to the quality of life for our citizens. We cannot effectively prepare and provide services for these new 4 million residents with the drastic revenue reductions proposed in CSB 2.

As an example, city staff in San Antonio estimate that the revenue reductions contemplated by CSB 2 could result in Fiscal Year 2019 alone (\$82 million) to the equivalent of 800 fewer police officers, a three-quarters reduction in street maintenance, or nearly the entire budgets for parks and libraries in San Antonio alone. The long-term impacts of reducing city and county services at these orders of magnitude will stifle economic growth, choke our streets with congestion and potholes, threaten air quality, and create other hardships for our residents.

In particular, the inclusion of Certificates of Obligations in calculating the tax caps will cripple our ability to build the infrastructure required to meet increased population growth.

We appreciate your efforts to reduce the tax burden on citizens and improve our public schools, but CSB 2 and its dramatic reductions to the revenues of our member jurisdictions - all of them among the fastest-growing in the nation - is not the solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross Milloy".

Ross Milloy, President  
The Greater Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council

CC: Members of the Texas House of Representatives  
Members of the Texas Senate  
Lt. Gov. Patrick