



July 31, 2017

UPDATED 8/4/2017 WITH ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of the State of Texas
State Capitol
Room 2S.1
1100 Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Governor Abbott,

Texas has worked for decades to establish its reputation as a great place to do business. Through smart, pro-growth public policy, the state has succeeded, and our business environment is the envy of states across the country. In addition to our economic success, Texas has become well-known for its excellent quality of life and our welcoming, inclusive spirit – attributes that have helped draw talented individuals to the state from across the nation and around the globe.

As members of Houston’s business community, we write to express our concern with the proposed “bathroom bill” being considered in this special legislative session. We support diversity and inclusion, and we believe that any such bill risks harming Texas’ reputation and impacting the state’s economic growth and ability to create new jobs.

Innovative companies are driven by their people, and winning the talent recruitment battle is key. Any bill that harms our ability to attract top talent to Houston will inhibit our growth and continued success – and ultimately the success of our great state.

We appreciate your leadership in Texas and urge you avoid any actions, including the passage of any “bathroom bill,” that would threaten our continued growth.

Sincerely,

Houston Business Leaders

Jeff Shellebarger
President
Chevron North America E&P
Chair, Greater Houston Partnership

Marc Watts
Vice Chair
Greater Houston Partnership

Bob Harvey
President and CEO
Greater Houston Partnership

Blake Pounds
Managing Director, Houston
Accenture

Steve Stephens
CEO
Amegy Bank

Thomas Perich
Chairman
Andrews Kurth Kenyon LLP

Eduardo Aguirre
Chairman and CEO
Atlantic Partners Group LLC

Andrew Baker
Managing Partner
Baker Botts LLP

Manolo Sanchez
Chairman
BBVA Compass

Steve Pastor
President, Petroleum
BHP Billiton Petroleum

Alan Thomson
Senior Partner and Managing
Director
The Boston Consulting Group

John Mingé
Chairman and President
BP America

Patrick C. Oxford
Chairman
Bracewell LLP

Thad Hill
President and CEO
Calpine Corporation

Ric Campo
Chairman and CEO
Camden Property Trust

David McClanahan
Retired President and CEO
CenterPoint Energy

Tony Chase
Chairman and CEO
ChaseSource

Ryan Lance
Chairman and CEO
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George A. DeMontrond, III
President
DeMontrond Automotive Group

Earl Shipp
Vice President, Gulf Coast
Operations
The Dow Chemical Company

Deborah Byers
Houston Office Managing Partner
Ernst & Young LLP

Linda DuCharme
President
ExxonMobil Global Services
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Charles C. Foster
Chairman
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Paul Hobby
Founding Partner
Genesis Park LP

Daniel M. Gilbane
President – Gilbane Southwest
Gilbane Building Company

Deborah Cannon
Former Chair
Greater Houston Partnership

Earl Hesterberg
President and CEO
Group 1 Automotive

Welcome Wilson, Sr.
Chairman
GSL Welcome Group

Jeffery A. Miller
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Lynne Liberato
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Jim Postl
President
James Postl Interests

Dan Bellow
President – Houston
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David Taylor
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Locke Lord

Gina Luna
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John Nau
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Superior Energy Services

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Texas Heart Institute

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W. S. Bellows Construction
Corporation

Denis C. Braham
Attorney at Law
Winstead PC

Cc: Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick
Speaker Joe Straus
Members of the Texas House of Representatives

Houston business leaders added as additional signatories after the initial delivery of the letter:

Daryl Lansdale
Managing Partner
Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

Greg Hill
President and COO
Hess Corporation