



July 31, 2017

\*\*\*UPDATED 8/10/2017 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  
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Thomas Perich  
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Eduardo Aguirre  
Chairman and CEO  
Atlantic Partners Group LLC

Andrew Baker  
Managing Partner  
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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  
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Linda DuCharme  
President  
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Company

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  
President and CEO  
Halliburton

Lynne Liberato  
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SCF Partners

Tom Ryan  
Chairman and CEO  
Service Corporation International

Bruce Culpepper  
President  
Shell Oil Company

Lisa Davis  
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President and CEO  
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Fernando Assing  
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Kevin Roberts  
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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

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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

Mark Potter  
Senior Vice President and Chief  
Technology Officer  
Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Oscar Munoz  
CEO  
United Airlines