



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

March 27, 2013

Mr. Ted Houghton
Chairman
Texas Transportation Commission
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chairman Houghton:

As you are aware, on March 2, federal spending cuts under the Budget Control Act went into effect. Due to the federal government's failure to implement thoughtful and efficient spending cuts, and instead cut critical safety services, starting in early April, federal funding for more than a dozen air traffic control towers across Texas will be eliminated. This action far surpasses the grandstanding Americans have come to associate with sequestration talks by potentially jeopardizing the safety of Texas emergency personnel, citizens and visitors. For the protection of Texans everywhere and to minimize any disruption of commerce caused by this action, I ask the Texas Transportation Commission to consider options to provide emergency, temporary assistance for this vital safety network as determined appropriate by the commission.

After no more than 90 days, I ask the commission to reevaluate this emergency, temporary funding.

While President Obama has chosen to make sequestration as painful as possible, I cannot with good conscience allow him to put his political agenda ahead of public safety.

Sincerely,

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:ack

cc: Mr. Phil Wilson, Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation
The Honorable Brian Birdwell
The Honorable Kevin Eltife
The Honorable Eddie Lucio, Jr.
The Honorable Charles Schwertner
The Honorable Donna Campbell
The Honorable Glenn Hegar
The Honorable Ken Paxton
The Honorable Carlos Uresti

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The Honorable Royce West
The Honorable Judith Zaffirini
The Honorable Brandon Creighton
The Honorable Joe Farias
The Honorable Tim Kleinschmidt
The Honorable Rick Miller
The Honorable René Oliveira
The Honorable Scott Sanford
The Honorable Kevin Brady
The Honorable Lloyd Doggett
The Honorable Bill Flores
The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa
The Honorable Sam Johnson
The Honorable Filemon Vela

The Honorable Tommy Williams
The Honorable Charles "Doc" Anderson
The Honorable Yvonne Davis
The Honorable Marsha Farney
The Honorable John Kuempel
The Honorable Geanie Morrison
The Honorable John Raney
The Honorable Matt Schaefer
The Honorable John Carter
The Honorable Blake Farenthold
The Honorable Louie Gohmert, Jr.
The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
The Honorable Pete Olson