



May 17, 2017

The Honorable [House State Affairs members]  
Texas House of Representatives  
PO Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768-2910

Representative/Senator/Chair NAME:

Metro 8 represents the business sectors of Texas' eight largest metropolitan areas: Arlington, Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio. Collectively, the Metro 8 chamber regions comprise more than 20,000 Texas companies, 19.4 million residents, and \$1.2 trillion in GDP in 2015. Sustaining this economic growth is dependent upon attracting a skilled workforce and growing businesses within the state.

Texas is best served by policies that portray our state as a welcoming, open place to live and do business. The Metro 8 Chambers of Commerce are dedicated to promoting Texas, and we have heard first hand from potential investors that any attempt to regulate bathroom usage will have a negative impact on the state's reputation. The Perryman Group, an economic research and analysis firm, recently published a report concluding that passage of bathroom legislation would cost Texas almost \$3.3 billion per year, with a high probability of the costs increasing even further in future years. Workforce talent recruitment will also be limited by any bathroom restrictions. Texas cannot afford such legislation.

As always, we welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff on important issues in our state.

Sincerely,

Bob Harvey, President and CEO, Greater Houston Partnership, 2017 Metro 8 Chair  
Mike Rollins, President and CEO, Austin Chamber of Commerce  
Michael Jacobson, President and CEO, Arlington Chamber of Commerce  
Kresten Cook, Interim President and CEO, United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce  
Dale Petroskey, President and CEO, Dallas Regional Chamber  
Richard Dayoub, President and CEO, El Paso Chamber of Commerce  
Bill Thornton, President and CEO, Ft. Worth Chamber of Commerce  
Richard Perez, President and CEO, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce