The Honorable Greg Abbott

Governor, State of Texas

Room 2S.1

1100 Congress Avenue

Austin, TX 78701

May 10, 2021

Dear Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, Speaker Phelan, and Senate & House Budget Conferees:

As chambers of commerce and business associations throughout the state of Texas, we represent a significant number of businesses, large and small, and their workforce. Our people and our companies have benefited from Texas' economic strength. Despite tremendous job creation in the last decade, we are mindful that Texas lost nearly 400,000 jobs in the last year as the state dealt with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As Texas' economic growth continues to recover from the public health crisis, the importance of recruiting corporate relocations and expansions and adding job opportunities for our communities is critical. **We ask that you make all efforts to support all of the Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor, including the Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF), Moving Image Industry Incentive Program, and Governors University Research Initiative (GURI).** We encourage funding for these programs to be maintained at $100 million, $45 million and $40 million, respectively, as proposed in the introduced version of Senate Bill 1.

Texas must compete for major capital investment and job creation for our state to remain top-of-mind as businesses evaluate their real estate options, particularly as the global economy reopens and businesses look to again expand. Together, these three economic development programs help ensure Texas is able to compete for top projects and talent. These economic development programs are responsible for thousands of jobs, billions of dollars in economic development and the bringing of top talent and researchers to Texas’ universities.

State leaders must take advantage of this opportunity to build on the momentum of the past decade to meaningfully invest in our future workforce and building the Texas economy. Now is not the time to pull back from proven economic development programs.

Sincerely,

Austin Chamber of Commerce
Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce
Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce

Austin Chamber of Commerce

Dallas Regional Chamber

El Paso Chamber of Commerce

Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce

Greater Houston Partnership

San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce