

SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 1000 TO CREATE JOBS IN RURAL TEXAS

TO: Members of the 86th Texas Legislature

We are writing to express our support for the Texas Rural and Opportunity Zone Jobs Act, House Bill 1000 by Rep. Chris Paddie.

This legislation will ensure small business growth, job creation and local economic development in some of Texas' hardest-hit rural and opportunity zone communities. Sen. Kelly Hancock and Rep. Paddie have said this about the legislation:

"While Texas has long been known as the job creation capital of America, our small businesses – particularly those in rural and distressed communities – are finding it difficult to secure the capital needed to grow and create good jobs. The Texas Rural and Opportunity Zone Jobs Act is a fair, responsible and sustainable way to strengthen businesses, communities and people across Texas that need a lift while boosting our state's economic competitiveness and growth."

Through the program, rural and opportunity zone growth funds would work closely with local community banks to help businesses buy equipment, upgrade facilities or make other improvements needed to expand, grow jobs and strengthen the local economy. The Texas Rural and Opportunity Zone Jobs Act:

- Prioritizes the creation and retention of quality jobs in important growth industries and rural communities, further driving the Texas economy forward
- Promotes private sector investment, ensuring a pro-growth, independent program to create high quality jobs and benefit small businesses
- Encourages workforce development and on-the-job training, helping businesses compete in a tight labor market
- Contains important safeguards to protect the state and its taxpayers, including an independent economic impact analysis that demonstrates a positive return on investment, along with job creation requirements and profit-sharing

This legislation is a fair, responsible and sustainable way to strengthen small businesses, communities and people across Texas that need a lift – particularly in our rural communities - while boosting our state's economic competitiveness and creating jobs.

We urge your support for House Bill 1000.

Sincerely,

Texas Economic Development Council
Texas Association of Business
Texas Association of Health Plans
Texas Association of Manufacturers
Texas Citrus Industry
Texas Farm Bureau
Texas Oil and Gas Association
Texas Seed Trade Association
National Federation of Independent Business
Permian Basin Petroleum Association
Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association



TEXAS FARM BUREAU

