

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Hearing Date: September 8, 2022 11:00 AM

Printed on: September 9, 2022 11:05 AM

COMMENTS FOR: Chapter 313.

Tim Hardin

Self

FORT WORTH, TX

Texas should not be in the business of picking winners and losers. Let these horrible socialist programs expire.

Amanda Posson

Amanda Posson

Austin, TX

I am a concerned public school student parent and taxpayer. Texas ranks 45th nationally in funding per student and the Chapter 313 program contributes to our state's austere and irresponsible education funding levels. The Legislature has deliberately neglected our students, teachers, and staff through the Chapter 313 tax giveaway program. As a result of prioritizing corporate tax giveaways over our children and educators, my fifth grader is sitting on the floor, on a mat, for a week at a time and then rotates with another student because there isn't enough space for 27 desks in the portable classroom. I don't believe this to be an isolated issue at my daughter's school; I have called three other campuses that have confirmed their class sizes range from 26 to 33 students. The portables are another huge health and safety issue due to insufficient funding from the state; the state relies to heavily on property taxes alone to fund schools. I proudly pay my share of state and local property taxes, but a system in which the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe our children and teachers is simply unfair. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and the Chapter 313 is nothing but fair to the hardworking parents and people of this great state. Chapter 313 is designed to favor the wealthiest corporations over hardworking folks, it's simply wrong and consequences of this woeful policy are increasingly evident to everyday Texans. Any legislator who supports Chapter 313 is out of touch with the lives of everyday Texans and their families. Parents of all backgrounds, whether middle or working class, whether Black, brown or white, are watching the legislature closely on Chapter 313. The Texas Legislature can make the right choice by stopping Chapter 313 and taxing wealthy corporations to raise the public education basic allotment per student. Our students, teachers, and public schools are worth it.

Binh Ly

SELF

Austin, TX

I am a concerned parent because our public schools aren't getting the funding they deserve and we are beginning to see the fall out after the pandemic. There are teacher shortages and my child is staring this school year without a permanent teacher. Teachers and public schools are not funded properly and I favor wealthy corporations paying their fair share of property taxes in order to fully support our public schools. I pay state and local property taxes and I expect wealthy corporations to do the same.

David King

Self

Austin, TX

Honorable Members of the Ways & Means Committee, Please allow the Chapter 313 code to expire and please do not enact new Chapter 313 legislation. Corporations already get preferential tax treatment by the federal and state tax laws and local taxing entities cannot afford to forego one penny of local taxes that fund schools and infrastructure. Chapter 313 tax rebates are not the fundamental determining factor in a corporation's decision to locate in a particular location. Tax rebates to corporations is a form of trickle-down economics that primary benefits corporate executives and stockholders at the expense of low- and middle-income taxpayers. A Samsung corporate executive stated publicly that Samsung doesn't need Chapter 313 incentives but would be foolish not to ask for them! Please oppose Chapter 313 legislation. Thank you for considering my comments. Thank you for your service. David King, Austin, TX 78704.

Ebele Compean

Myself

kyle, TX

Please allow the Chapter 313 Tax Abatement Corporate Welfare program to expire. Please return the \$27 billion budge surplus to Texas Taxpayers. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ebele and Steven Compean

Karen Browning

self, Texas public school parent

Austin, TX

I am a concerned public school student parent and Texas citizen. Texas ranks 45th nationally in funding per student and the Chapter 313 program contributes to our state's austere and irresponsible education funding levels. The Legislature has deliberately neglected our students, teachers, and staff through the Chapter 313 tax giveaway program. As a result of prioritizing corporate tax giveaways over our children and educators, our public schools are unable to meet basic education standards like low teacher to staff ratios, safe and healthy facilities, and a well retained educator workforce. I proudly pay my share of state and local property taxes, but a system in which the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe our children and teachers is simply unfair. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to the hardworking parents and people of this great state. Chapter 313 is designed to favor the wealthiest corporations over hardworking people like me. Parents of all backgrounds, whether middle or working class, Black, brown, or white, are watching the legislature closely on this issue. The Texas Legislature can make the right choice by stopping Chapter 313 and taxing wealthy corporations to raise the basic allotment for public education.

Walker Moore

Dallas Area Interfaith

Carrollton, TX

My name is Walker Moore and I am with Dallas Area Interfaith. I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other attempt that reduces school property taxes corporations. Chapter 313 died last legislative session because because it cost the state over \$ 1 billion per year. Plus, by Governor Abbott's calculations, it costing taxpayers \$341,000 for every permanent job it created.

Corporations don't come to Texas because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

This money could be spent on educating my three daughters in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD.

Ayse Indemaio

Myself

Cypress, TX

Please do not bring back 313. The taxpayer does not want that. Thank you

Donna Stallone

Self

Cypress, TX

DO NOT BRING THIS BACK. We HAVE HAD Enough! Chapter 313 was put to rest in the 2021 legislative session. Let it Rest In Peace!

Jimmy jackson

self

Beeville, TX

Your potential renewal of "chapter 313" is a travesty against the taxpayer of Texas . This is a hidden massive tax that could only be passed by corrupt kickbacks. South Texas is covered up with these "cuisanarts " of the sky that already have large federal subsidies , I'm a lifelong conservative and republican and am shocked that you would even consider renewing 313 . I'm assuming governor Abbott is complicit in this too . I hate to withhold my vote for Abbott but will do so even knowing that "Beto" might be elected. Corruption and lack of transparency is perpetrated by both parties . My Bee County republican party has hosted Gov Abbt twice in recent years . I've personally sent him letters expressing my disp=may at the wind farm outrage , he never even responded . The last time he was here , I personally told him I appreciated his border policy ,but also told him he was destriying Texas with wind farms and we were tired of funding same. Jimmy Jackson

Suzanne Bathe

Myself

Houston, TX

Vote NO on this bill!

Jacob Brown

Self

Katy, TX

I strongly oppose bringing back chapter 313 in giving away tax credits to corporations. This raids our state Treasure and our tax payers. We Republicans stand against this.

JOHN THORNGREN

SELF

SHADY SHORES, TX

The current tax appraisal system is subjective, prone to graft, favors developers, and displaces people from homes they have worked hard for and paid . Please-Please consider the Value Added Tax to replace and eliminate this feudal system.

Laura Klein Plunkett

Self

Georgetown, TX

Companies do not need incentives or abatements to relocate to Texas. Money given to corporations diverts money from schools to provide corporate welfare. The practice is unfair because it shifts the burden of supporting schools to other companies who do not receive abatements/incentives, and to homeowners. If we keep Texas business-friendly, there will be no problem getting companies to move here. The whole idea of allowing supplemental payment proves that incentives are much higher than they need to be, and often the job creation requirements are simply insufficient, and can be waived. Such incentives are unfair to the majority of Texas school districts and taxpayers, and therefore Chapter 313 should not be extended.

Patrick Madden, Mr.

Self

Mckinney, TX

Do not re activate this section of the tax code

Eli Holliday

TMO

Houston, TX

My name is Eli Holliday and I am a leader with First Congregational Church of Houston and TMO.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Sincerely,

Eli Holliday

Delilah Francis

Self

Port Arthur, TX

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Delilah Francis

KC Panjwani

TMO, Self, Retired

Houston, TX

My name is KC. Panjwani and I am a leader with First Unitarian Universalist and TMO.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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KC Panjwani

Maria Burdick

self

Houston, TX

I oppose this legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing Public educations over \$1 BILLION each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Maria Burdick

Mariloli Odum

Self

Houston, TX

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At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers and assure the safety of our children, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Curtis Wyman, Mr
Central Texas Interfaith
Austin, TX

My name is Curtis Wyman and I am a leader with Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations.

Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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Your action to prevent continuation of Chapter 313 funding will be appreciated.
Curt Wyman

Terrence Bufford, Sr
Self
Cypress, TX

My name is Terrence Bufford Sr and I am a leader with TMO.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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We the people have taken upon the tax burden for the whole country, with limited help from rich corporations year to year. At what point do they pay their fair share? The only thing we hear is how the debt keeps rising, but YOU as our leaders aren't doing anything to lower the deficit by FIRST making the corporation pay a comparable tax rate. We are steadily falling in our education rank vs the world (because our education budget keeps getting slaughtered), and I believe that alone should be a call to your efforts to change where we've been headed for quite some time now.

The time to be about the people who voted you in IS NOW.

Sincerely,
Terrence Bufford Sr.

Nancy Zarse, Dr
Self

Katy, TX

I oppose this legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other strategy that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 was defeated because it cost public education over \$1 BILLION each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to use another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. Given the struggle to attract and retain teachers, and to assure the safety of our children, we must properly fund our schools, not give tax breaks to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

janice stokes-naumann

self

Houston, TX

My name is Janice. I am a mom of 5 children. Certified Texas Teacher and a Certified Academic Language Therapist. My triplets just graduated from a public high school in 2022, My other children now 32, and 29 also graduated from a public high school in Texas in 2008 and 2010. In the last 10 or so years, I have seen the public education system go downhill due to a lack of funding. Lack of funding to keep the school clean, and a lack of funding to be able to provide toilet paper in the restrooms.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure, and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). The tech world is growing massively in the Austin area and it is because we don't have an income tax that great employees are flocking to Texas. So corporations are following suit.

At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children, and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

If Corporations give money to public schools is it with strings attached, so teachers still cannot get the things they need for their classroom, or else they have to pay for it with their own money on their incomes that are below the poverty level? When we give corporations this tax break, we are basically taking the money away from the children that need it the most.

LUCY CAIRE

SELF, ARTIST

HOUSTON, TX

I oppose this legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 BILLION each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers and assure the safety of our children, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Nancy Sterling

Self/retired

Houston, TX

I oppose this legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 BILLION each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers and assure the safety of our children, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Mary Lenn Dixon, Rev.

Central Texas Interfaith and SoCo Episcopal Community

Austin, TX

As an Episcopal clergy person and a leader in Central Texas Interfaith (CTI), I am writing to oppose legislation to reauthorize Chapter 313 or any other proposal to privilege big corporations over public schools. This kind of corporate tax break not only hurts our schools at present, it commits public education to losing revenue for years to come, and positions Texans to having to make that up with higher property taxes. At a time when funds have never been more needed to attract teachers with better pay and to secure our campuses from tragedy, how can we instead give breaks to corporations that will pursue their own profits with or without those breaks? As CTI and journalists have revealed again and again, the benefits corporations promise to local communities are generally small, vague, and on a long time horizon that makes it likely no one will notice or react if promises are not honored. Please honor the legislature's decision in 2021 to end Chapter 313 and support public education by rejecting any similar proposals from corporate power bases to support their profits over our children's future. Thank you.

Warren Rich

Self/Retired

Houston, TX

My name is Warren Rich and I am a leader with Congregation Beth Israel and TMO here in Houston.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

The way Chapter 313 is structured it is always a bad deal for the locality and for the State. I understand that it is often necessary to offer corporations an incentive to locate to our State, but the idea is usually the new corporation will increase employment and the new employees will generate enough tax revenue to make up for the tax deferment being offered. The key here is NEW CORPORATIONS not companies already committed to our State and that are here to extract minerals they can't get anywhere else.

However, these deals have to be looked at very carefully, and school boards are not qualified to analyze complicated tax issues. For example, Micron Technology is applying for hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks for a massive program over 20 plus years for which they will only create 80 jobs – and not even high paying jobs! But if you look closely at why they want to build here it is that Texas offers the lowest rates on electricity, which this chip manufacturer depends on that cheap electricity.

Again, I understand the reasoning behind offering tax breaks to lure business to Texas. But Chapter 313 is so bad it needs to be killed and buried with no chance of resuscitation and be replaced with a state wide program that is administered out of Austin with competent staff that can see and understand all of the intricacies of these deals and can penalize those corporations that fail to fulfill their part of the deal. Tax abatement has to come from the State, not any school district.

Georgina Reynoso

The Metropolitan Organization (TMO)

Spring, TX

My name is Georgina Reynoso and I am a leader with The Metropolitan Organization.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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Georgina Reynoso

Teresa Humphreys

self

SUGAR LAND, TX

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Douglas Pierre

None

Spring, TX

My name is Douglas_Pierre, and I am a leader with New Hope Baptist Church and TMO.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it costs public education over \$1 billion yearly. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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Your Name

Douglas Pierre

TMO Houston

<http://www.tmohouston.org/>

Amy Richards, Mrs
The Metropolitan Organization
Houston, TX

We continue to underfund Texas public schools and I am very afraid for our future if we allow "corporate welfare" where corporations do not pay into the Texas public school system. My children graduated from a fine Texas high school which is in the 77024 zip code. Even then, as a member of the PTA board, constant fundraising was necessary to insure that Teachers and the school had what they needed. The library did not have chairs, textbooks were often 20 years old. the elementary school even had to fundraise for three teacher salaries. . If we expect an educated population where graduates are critical thinkers, we need to fund our schools adequately. As the population grows, we do not increase funding. Many schools do not even have enough toilet paper. Where are our values? Certainly not with our children. They are our future. I know that politically, there are those who do not want to pay taxes for anything, and come up with unsubstantiated excuses to defund our schools. There is extreme outcry when some suggest that we defund our police (which actually is not defund the police, but putting resources into prevention. That is another topic). Please join me in rejecting chapter 313. Amy Richards

Susan Kleiman, Ms.
Dallas Area Interfaith
Dallas, TX

This bill should NOT be revived. PLEASE DO NOT further damage our public school system by diverting essential funding to greedy corporations. Our public school system desperately needs the revenue that these bloated corporations would be siphoning off for purposes of pure profit, and if we continue to offer sub-par educational opportunities in our state, these same corporations will have difficulty finding educated talent to work for them, and ultimately, this will give corporations pause to think when they consider moving operations to our state. These companies already enjoy significant tax breaks when they come to our state and more tax incentives are completely unnecessary and unjustified to attract them, especially if they are sourced by funding that is essential to our ability to provide quality educational opportunities to our children. In essence, this bill would be very detrimental to the future of our state.

James Skopal, Mr
Pave
Houston, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Lindsey Pollock, Dr.
TMO - Houston
Houston, TX

My name is Lindsey Pollock and I am a leader with The Lian Dante Foundation and TMO.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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Lindsey Pollock, Ed.D.

TMO Houston
<http://www.tmohouston.org/>

Lisa Stone
self/educator
Houston, TX

I'm co-chair of Congregation Beth Israel's Social Justice Committee and a leader with TMO, The Metropolitan Organization, part of the Industrial Areas Foundation.

I join all those opposing legislation to bring back Chapter 313-- or any other scheme to reduce school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come to our state primarily for tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

We need to address the crisis in public education, not coddle big corporations.

Lisa E. Stone

TMO Houston
<http://www.tmohouston.org/>

Jim Elmore
St. Thomas PC USA Social Justice Committee
Houston, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. Corporations don't

come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Tom Kimbel, Mr

Self retired

Tomball, TX

No chapter 313

Sheen Smith

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose this legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 BILLION each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers and assure the safety of our children, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Myron Knudson

Dallas Area Interfaith

Dallas, TX

Don't take away school taxes that will help students. This is wrong. Schools need more money, not less money to educate students in Texas. Education of students is our Texas future. Don't squander the lack of money for Student education to reward rich manufacturing and oil and gas companies. They don't care about the future of Texas, only profits now.

Jennifer Cross, Dr.

self, community volunteer

Frisco, TX

As of 2023, Chapter 313 contracts will funnel at minimum \$1 BILLION Texas taxpayer dollars PER YEAR to corporations. Too many of these deals are unjustified, lack responsible oversight, and exacerbate school funding inequities. There's a reason that both those on the left and the right of the political spectrum ardently opposed extending Chapter 313 beyond its December 2022 expiration--because it's a reckless usage of taxpayer dollars. Research shows that 85% of these companies would have come to Texas anyway, and over half of Chapter 313 applicants were given job-requirement waivers. Why in the world are we doling out billions of dollars to not even get quality jobs in return for Texans? Texas has the 3rd highest single-family home property tax rate in the nation, in part because we're subsidizing corporations' property taxes through Chapter 313 deals. In 2015 Governor Abbott said, "While the program may sometimes have a positive impact on local economic development, serious concerns exist about its oversight, its transparency, and its value to the taxpayers." Enough is enough. If Chapter 313 is renewed it needs such a massive overhaul to be called something else entirely. I do not support extending Chapter 313 without major revisions related to qualifying companies, responsible oversight, and equity to homeowners and school districts.

Cathy Elmore

First Congregational Church of Houston, TMO

Houston, TX

My name is Cathy Elmore. I am a member of First Congregational Church of Houston and a leader with TMO.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations.

Chapter 313 was killed via a bipartisan effort because it is costing public education over \$1 billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas must find other revenue to repay the school district that granted the tax break.

Most of the corporations that apply for Chapter 313 are already in Texas: Chevron, Exxon Mobil, Phillips 66, Occidental Petroleum, Texas Instruments, Samsung and Dow Chemical. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure, and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). This year, there has been a record number of Chapter 313 applications, including from corporations whose facilities won't open until 2040 or, like Samsung, aren't even sure how the welfare will be used. In 2015, Greg Abbott vetoed an expansion of Chapter 313, citing the program's poor cost per job as the reason for his veto. Senator Bettencourt says the jobs provisions of any such program should be "ironclad." But the last time an application was rejected was in 2016 and only 2 agreements have been abrogated for corporate performance failure. Texas students and school districts are facing unprecedented challenges: a huge post-pandemic learning deficit and a teacher shortage which is also burning out our remaining teachers. Additionally, we need to protect our students in the classroom so they grow up to become productive Texans. To address these issues, Texas schools will need to keep every dollar they are due rather than handing out corporate welfare. We do not need a program that helps a mere 5% of our students and takes money away from the remaining 95%. Our public schools are a huge part of what has made our nation great and allowed us to improve our cost of living to among the highest in the world. We need to bolster them rather than take funding away.

Ok, I get it that we want Texas to be business friendly. But not at the expense of our children's education or individual taxpayers. Texas ranks 45th among states in dollars funded per student. And Texas has an enormous budget surplus. We must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Respectfully,

Cathy Elmore

Jane Kremer

Self/Retired

Houston, TX

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Given the recent news about significant learning gaps due to the pandemic, the last thing we need to do is take public school tax dollars and give them to corporations.

Jane Kremer

Daniel Schwieterman, Mr.

SELF

Houston, TX

My name is DAN SCHWIETERMAN and I am a leader with ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH and TMO.

Attention Ways And Means gathering:

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Please oppose any form of a tax break for new business. Our children and future require positive investments and not "handouts" to groups that promise help to a few at a poorly defined future date.

My children were public school children. We need equal or more resources for a good education of my grandchildren. #313 will weaken their and our states future.

Your Name
Dan Schwieterman

Joanne Guarino

Self /retired

Houston, TX

Please vote for big corporations to support our public schools by paying taxes.

Julia Land

self//technical writer

Houston, TX

Our public schools are important, and we all must support them. I think it is wrong to give large corporations a tax break on their school property taxes. We have enough problems trying to make school funding fair and sufficient. Chapter 313 is counter productive.

Scott Brookhart

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our

schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Bruce Harris

Self

Dallas, TX

This program should NOT be re-introduced, period !! As a tax payer, I don't want our school property taxes going to corporations who have the capacity and desire to locate in Texas without taking school district tax breaks (University of Texas and other scholastic studies show over 80% of these companies would relocate to Texas anyway, given the lack of a state tax and desirability of the geographic location - among others). The program negatively impacts our public education by eliminating school taxes that could go to school districts. Why should corporations get over \$1 billion in tax breaks every year through these deals? Why should all school districts suffer when only certain district agree to this arrangement and benefit -short term- at the expense of all districts.

We have having to use primarily sales tax dollars to shore up these unneeded school tax break breaks. Guess who pays? All the taxpayers of Texas who effectively now have to support schools which otherwise would be supported by school property taxes.

When this program currently expires at the end of 2022, companies have lined up (over 400) with applications for projects that aren't even contemplated being done until 10-20 years down the road. What are our public school needs going to be that far in advance and why would we approve projects which, in reality, may never happen? Because the program is so lopsided, companies are lining up in the event they can capitalize on a lucrative project with no risk.

The program also had no reporting requirements to ensure the minimal job creations and wages to qualify. How much do such tax breaks cost per future jobs - Many of these jobs effectively have cost over \$1 million each in forgiven property taxes. Do some analysis and see the inequity of this.

It would be interesting to compile a list of past recipients and those companies currently putting in applications as compared to legislators who receive political contributions from them. I suspect there may be a significant correlation between the two for those who may consider re-introducing this boondoggle. Please, do not consider opening this program up!!

Nancy Wolff

Self

Plano, TX

My name is Nancy Wolff and a resident of Plano as well as a leader with King of Glory Lutheran Church, American Legion Post 321 and an advocate for education.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations.

Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Nancy Wolff

Ronnie Brooks

Self

Little Elm, TX

It's disgraceful that while Texans are being taxed out of their homes because corrupt Austin swamp refuses to prioritize Texans, they're pushing to use OUR tax dollars to bribe their donors. We demanded Chapter 313 end in 2021 and now he wants to resurrect it to appease the same companies that have been robbing us for decades. It costs tax payers to the tune of \$140k-\$200k per Job "created" and it's not guarantees it's Texans employed. Many use HB visas to fill these roles freezing out any positive economic impact. This needs to end for good and so called republicans need to finally do what they were elected to do, represent us not their greedy corporate donors.

Betty Gillespie

Dominican Family

Cypress, TX

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Denise Stasio

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose this legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 BILLION each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers and assure the safety of our children, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Amanda Honeycutt

Self

Houston, TX

My name is Amanda Honeycutt and I am the mother of two children attending elementary school in HISD.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Amanda Honeycutt

KIMBERLEY RUTLEDGE

SELF

SMITHVILLE, TX

I IMPLORE YOU TO NOT CREATE THE NEXT PROBLEM TAXPAYERS' ARE LEFT TO PAY FOR. I have residential rentals and have been forced to raise rents on 100% of all my properties located in different counties. I'm not passing on 100% of the property tax increases, so everyone loses the same. That's equitable inclusion!! Stop selling Texas like a Saturday nite sex worker. These corporations have good reason to come to Texas and it's not to fill your political coffers.

Marie Pousson

The Metropolitan Organization-TMO

Houston, TX

My name is Marie Pousson and I am a leader with Hope Episcopal Church and TMO. I am a retired educator who spent 28 years in serving Texas public school students. My 3 children attended public schools in Houston.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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Marie Pousson

voter in 77018

Charles Crowell

self, retired

Richmond, TX

I was happy to learn of the ending of Chapter 313 tax abatement. I am vehemently opposed to the re-establishment of such abatements in ANY FORM. Coroporations can pay their own way or they can go elsewhere. If their businesses are viable in a free and open market, they will make a decision based on that alone; not on whether or not they can get a government (i.e. taxpayer) handout.

LOUANN SCHILDKNECHT

self

QUITMAN, TX

We as citizens of Tx already pay too much in property taxes and this needs to stay in the trash where it belongs

Michael Floyd

Self, retired minister

Austin, TX

My name is Michael Floyd, and I am a leader with Central Texas Interfaith. I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that similarly reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it was widely recognized to have failed as an economic development initiative and because it cost public education over \$1 billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. Economic development incentives should not be related in any direct way to financing education.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate in Texas because of qualified workers, good education, serviceable infrastructure, and abundant natural resources. At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children, and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our school, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Sincerely,
Michael Floyd

Julie Spehar

Self Retired

McKinney, TX

Please do not let chapter 313 come back in any form.

Jessica Cain

Living Word Lutheran Church/Central Texas Interfaith

San Marcos, TX

I am a leader with Corridor Interfaith Alliance for Families, a pastor in Buda, and a parent of children in the San Marcos CISD. In all of these rolls, I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any similar scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. Corporations don't come to Texas because of tax breaks; many of those filing for Chapter 313 are already working in this area, and just hoping for a tax break they have not earned. Businesses locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world. We should be investing the maximum amount of money possible into the education of our children, which means collecting taxes from corporations using our land, people, and resources.

Emma Odum

self, Creative Director

Houston, TX

I oppose this legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 BILLION each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers and assure the safety of our children, we must properly

fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Marvin Odum

self, Director

Houston, TX

I oppose this legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 BILLION each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers and assure the safety of our children, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Thomas Pollan

All Saints Episcopal Church CTI Core Team

Austin, TX

My name is Thomas M. Pollan, and I am a leader with All Saints' Episcopal Church Core Team of Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 in its current form or in a way that takes away from the property taxes that are available to schools. Currently, Chapter 313 is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas must put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

The current Chapter 313 has a very low threshold for access. The applicant only needs to provide twenty-five jobs. That is an insufficient number for the benefit conferred. There should be a reasonable relationship on the cost to the State on a per job basis. It makes no sense to cost the State several hundred thousand dollars for each job created.

The purpose of economic development should be to attract new businesses to Texas, not to provide an incentive to a corporation that is already here.

By giving the tax abatement, the corporation should not be allowed to depreciate the property so that very little tax benefit remains at the end of the abatement period, especially if the property would have substantial value if it were sold.

There should be substantial clawback provisions if the corporation does not meet the target it agreed to.

Only a small percentage of school districts benefit from this economic development program. The State needs to design any new public school economic development tax abatement program so that it does not take away revenue from the statewide needs of all public schools. There should also be restrictions on payments in lieu of taxes that a school district can receive from the corporation for entering into the tax abatement agreement.

Any future economic development legislation for public schools should be carefully drafted to ensure that Texas does receive a substantial economic benefit that would not have otherwise occurred. Granting tax abatements to corporations who would have expanded anyway does not serve this purpose.

Thomas M. Pollan

Bob Fleming

The Metropolitan Orgainzation (Houston)

Houston, TX

As a member of the Texas Industrial Areas Foundation and its Houston affiliate, I am writing in opposition to the renewal of the Chapter 313 tax abatement program. There are at least 6 reasons to oppose renewal of the program

1. In past years, the program has costs Texas K-12 schools on average \$1B a year in annual funding. For the last year of the program at least 450 individual 313 applications have been filed with the potential to cost K-12 schools \$10-12B annually in school funding.
2. No such tax abatements are offered to small and medium sized businesses that expand or re-locate to Texas. Yet these smaller businesses often bring more jobs to their communities than the large corporations do.
3. Individual families must pay increased property taxes to make up for the abatements given to big businesses.
4. There is no evidence that companies receiving these abatements would not have relocated to Texas in their absence. In fact, a program designed to help companies relocate to Texas is abused; it is now largely used to help companies in Texas to "relocate and expand."
5. There is no accountability for this program. Not state agency - not even the Legislature itself - can impose a cap on the cost of abatements nor can they make determinations on individual projects or set priorities for the program. In effect, Chapter 313 allows big business interests an unlimited "draw" on the State treasury.
6. The program is rife with abuse and the potential for corruption. School districts that educate 5% of our children are allowed to grant tax abatements (with a guarantee that the State will make them whole), to the detriment of ISD's that educate 95% of our children. Moreover, districts that grant abatements are allowed to receive "pilot payments" or "donations" from corporations receiving the abatements. These "donations" go to ISDs non-profit foundations with no controls or reporting required on uses for these funds. Moreover, consultants receive huge fees for arranging these abatements as well.

Nadine Pool

self

Houston, TX

I oppose this legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 BILLION each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers and assure the safety of our children, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Nadine Pool

Mary Koch

The Metropolitan Organization/ Houston

Houston, TX

I am writing to oppose re-introduction of any program offering corporate tax abatement. During the last Legislative Session, a bipartisan coalition stopped Chapter 313 re-authorization. Chapter 313 was stopped because of its detriment to taxpayers (\$1 Billion /year) and to most school districts in Texas--only 5% of Texas students benefitted from Chapter 313 "giveaways." In addition, there was poor accountability that promised jobs and other economic development benefits occurred. In addition, we have learned that there was NO accountability of the PILOT funds (Payments In Lieu of Taxes) paid directly to the schools. Also, most of the Chapter 313 applications approved were found to expand or renew current corporate operations--not attract new businesses. Business come to Texas for a variety of reasons: educated workforce, no income taxes, rich resources and infrastructure to name a few. Corporate welfare should not be one of them. Chapter 313 hurts public schools and tax payers. It is bad public policy. Do not re-new this bill. Thank you.

Ali Takata

self

Austin, TX

I am a concerned parent of two Austin ISD students. Texas ranks 45th nationally in funding per student and the Chapter 313 program contributes to our state's austere and irresponsible education funding levels. The Legislature has deliberately neglected our students, teachers, and staff through the Chapter 313 tax giveaway program. As a result of prioritizing corporate tax giveaways over our children and educators, our public schools are unable to meet basic education standards like low teacher to staff ratios, safe and healthy facilities, and a well retained educator workforce. We are entering our fourth week of school and my 8th grader still has no English Language Arts teacher! This is unacceptable in our great state! I value fairness which is why I proudly pay my share of state and local property taxes. But a system in which the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe is simply unfair. Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to the hardworking people of this great state. Chapter 313 is designed to favor the wealthiest corporations over parents, students and teachers. Parents are watching the legislature closely on this issue. The Texas Legislature can make the right choice by stopping Chapter 313 and taxing wealthy corporations to raise the basic allotment for public education. Investing in our education system benefits the people of Texas now and in the future.

Mike Culbertson

Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation

Corpus Christi, TX

As the Interim CEO of an Economic Development Organization that has seen over \$55 billion in announced projects over twelve years, I can definitely say that Chapter 313 and hopefully any follow-on legislation is most important to the future of Texas in its ability to attract large industrial projects to our state. I know for a fact that the state of Louisiana has marketing materials for potential projects touting the fact that Texas has let the Chapter 313 tax limitation program lapse. A decision maker of a large, multi-billion dollar project that has begun operations here, said that Chapter 313 was the determining incentive over Louisiana. These manufacturing jobs that come here are very important to our state as they increase the average household income of the area, increase the wealth of school districts across the state, and the community where they locate. Since school districts are almost half of the tax rate, this program is a must. As the Comptroller's Office I am sure, is inundated with Chapter 313 applications, we have not seen the affect of the sunset yet, but when we do, it will tally in the billions of lost investment, millions in lost tax revenue, and thousands of good paying jobs.

Zachary Rathbun, RPBC 4097 Pct Chairman

Self

Selma, TX

NO 313!

I am concerned that Chapter 313 will negatively impact my community. This will become a problem for my neighborhood by incentiveizing corporations to become involved in my local elections for School Board in order to get this kickback- it disenfranchises me and my community in favor of faceless woke corporate cronies and their hired-guns.

We already see what massive companies want: CRT, disgusting sexualization of children, useless "green" agenda, and an anti-american education!

Reviving this law will be undermining local efforts to take back control of our children's education!

NO 313! but YES to lower property taxes and School Choice!

Zachary Rathbun

RPBC Pct Chairman 4097

Penelope Cerling

self - retired RN

Houston, TX

I do not want Chapter 313 to continue. It reduces taxes for corporations and thereby reduces revenue for Texas public schools. Corporations will no longer want to be in Texas if we continue to gut our education system and no longer have a workforce of qualified Texans, but have to import workers from states with better public education systems. Texas should do better. We must have good Public Schools. It is wrong to continue to give money to corporations on the backs of our children, our future.

Amy Dole

self; social worker

Austin, TX

I am a concerned parent of two public school students in Austin, TX. I am also a proud Texan who is all for paying my fair share of state and local property taxes. In fairness, wealthy corporations should also pay what they owe so we can have robust support for our public schools. Texas has done a good job attracting companies here and that has caused a lot of good growth. However, there has been a lack of concomitant revenue growth through taxes for the services, like public education, that all Texas citizens deserve. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to the hardworking parents and people of this great state. Chapter 313 is designed to favor the wealthiest corporations over hardworking people like me. We need to stop neglecting our students, teachers, and staff through the Chapter 313 tax giveaway program. The Texas Legislature can make the right choice by stopping Chapter 313 and taxing wealthy corporations to raise the basic allotment for public education. Let's make our public schools a shining example of what makes Texas great.

Sarah Mills

Self, physician

Austin, TX

I am a concerned public school student parent, mother of two, and physician educator. Texas ranks 45th nationally in funding per student and the Chapter 313 program contributes to our state's austere and irresponsible education funding levels. The Legislature has deliberately neglected our students, teachers, and staff through the Chapter 313 tax giveaway program. As a result of prioritizing corporate tax giveaways over our children and educators, our public schools are unable to meet basic education standards like low teacher to staff ratios, safe and healthy facilities, and a well retained educator workforce. I proudly pay my share of state and local property taxes, but a system in which the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe our children and teachers is simply unfair. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to the hardworking parents and people of this great state. Chapter 313 is designed to favor the wealthiest corporations over hardworking people like me. Parents of all backgrounds, whether middle or working class, Black, brown, or white, are watching the legislature closely on this issue. The Texas Legislature can make the right choice by stopping Chapter 313 and taxing wealthy corporations to raise the basic allotment for public education.

Stewart McGregor, Mr.

Kaufman Economic Development Corporation

Kaufman, TX

Mr. Chairman & Committee Members,

My name is Stewart McGregor and I am the Executive Director for the Kaufman, TX Economic Development Corporation. I am

also on the Board of Directors for the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) as well as a member of the TEDC Legislative Committee. As an economic development professional in the nation's fastest growing county, I can attest to the importance of reviving a program in the spirit of Chapter 313. Texas has been on a major "winning streak" for the last decade with capital intensive projects and high wage jobs. The program has been so successful that surrounding states have created similar programs to make themselves more competitive. Kansas and Oklahoma both created an incentive to target projects of similar scale as Chapter 313 targeted. This led to a win in Kansas for a Panasonic battery manufacturing plant (which will be a major supplier to Tesla). With Texas having one of the highest property tax burdens in the nation, we can fall out of deals to states with lower ad valorem rates. I understand the concerns regarding renewable energy and the cottage industry of consultants and am open as an economic development professional to the Legislature making adjustments to the program to enhance reasonable transparency measures and tweak qualifying industries and job creation requirements.

Most Chapter 313 projects locate on properties that are ag-exempt, such as Tesla. These large parcels of land are typically valued on the tax rolls in the 4-low 5 digit range. When you place a \$1 Billion facility on the rolls, it shifts the funding away from the state and onto the local tax rolls since it adds M&O value up to the limitation amount allowed by that ISDs category. (i.e., a 200 acre ag-exempt property valued at \$10,000 lands new value of \$500 million on it. At a value limitation of \$80 million, the local ISD receives M&O revenue off of \$80 million allowing the state to shift its financial aid away from the local ISD). Therefore, the Legislature may look at creating a new program designed for projects locating specifically on ag-exempt property. This type of impact also enhances the other local taxing entities valuations which compresses the amount by which the other taxing authorities can assess in local property tax rates.

This past year I have witnessed a significant amount of capital intensive projects looking to locate in Texas. Many of these projects are looking because they know 313 expires at the end of this year. Following the expiration of 313s, Texas may not know just how many projects are lost because we aren't even considered due to not having a program of this type in place. It is my request you work with industry, tax experts and economic development professionals in creating a new program that will continue to allow Texas to compete for high wage, quality jobs that drive additional revenue for the state and helps lower the property tax burden on homeowners. Thank you.

Jeffrey Hunt

Texas schoolchildren

Austin, TX

I am a concerned public school student parent and property tax payer. Texas ranks 45th nationally in funding per student and the Chapter 313 program contributes to our state's austere and irresponsible education funding levels. The Legislature has deliberately neglected our students, teachers, and staff through the Chapter 313 tax giveaway program. As a result of prioritizing corporate tax giveaways over our children and educators, our public schools are unable to meet basic education standards like low teacher to staff ratios, safe and healthy facilities, and a well retained educator workforce. I proudly pay my share of state and local property taxes, but a system in which the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe our children and teachers is simply unfair. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to the hardworking parents and people of this great state. Chapter 313 is designed to favor the wealthiest corporations over hardworking people like me. Parents of all backgrounds, whether middle or working class, Black, brown, or white, are watching the legislature closely on this issue. The Texas Legislature can make the right choice by stopping Chapter 313 and taxing wealthy corporations to raise the basic allotment for public education.

Janet Follstaedt, Ms.

Self

Dallas, TX

I object to the renewal of Chapter 313. This is just another example of corporate welfare paid for by hard-working Texans. I urge you not to renew this legislation.

Mitylene Myhr

Self/Professor of History

Austin, TX

My name is Mity Myhr and I am a member of Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Your Name

Mity Myhr

Rose Kruppa

COPS/Metro in San Antonio

San Antonio, TX

My name is Rose Kruppa and I am a leader with COPS/Metro in San Antonio.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for the benefit of big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Rose Kruppa

Claudia Kramer Santamaria, Dr.

Central Area Interfaith

Austin, TX

My name is Claudia Kramer Santamaria and I am a leader with Trinity Methodist church and Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Claudia Kramer Santamaria,
30 year teacher and principal just retired

Roberto Vazquez

I am President of my own Internet related company and a member of COPS/Metro

Ssn Antoinio, TX

I own my own internet related business and a member of COPS/Metro in San Antonio, Texas.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for the benefit of big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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Roberto Vazquez

COPS/Metro

<http://www.copsmetro.com/>

Karen Ball

city of San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for the benefit of big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Ann Locasio, Dr.

Central Texas Interfaith

Austin, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because of its staggering cost to public education. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools. Corporations locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support

our students need, we must give our schools the funding they need. Chapter 313 is corporate welfare. I oppose it.

Dora Trevino

Central Texas Interfaith

Austin, TX, TX

Hello, I am Dora Treviño, and a member of Central Texas Interfaith. I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools. Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Dora Trevino

Toña Vasquez, Ms.

Central Tx Interfaith

Austin, TX

My name is Toña Vasquez and I am a leader with Central Texas Interfaith.

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Your Name

Toña Vasquez

Leader with Central Texas Interfaith

Martha Sylvia Vásquez, Rev.

COPS/Metro

San Antonio, TX

Please oppose this legislation that benefits corporations at the expense of education for Texas children. Corporations are powerful but the children are important. Their education is our hope for the future. Don't be short sighted. Vote against letting corporations have government funds.

The Rev. Martha Sylvia Vásquez

COPS/Metro

<http://www.copsmetro.com>

Christina Leal, MPH

COPS/Metro

San Antonio, TX

My name is Christina Leal and I am an organizer with COPS/Metro in San Antonio.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for the benefit of big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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Christina Leal

Diane Duesterhoeft

COPS/Metro

San Antonio, TX

My name is Diane Duesterhoeft and I am a leader with First Unitarian Universalist Church and COPS/Metro in San Antonio.

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Michael Phillips

COPS/Metro

San Antonio, TX

My name is Mike Phillips and I am a leader with First Unitarian Universalist Church and COPS/Metro in San Antonio.

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schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Rachel Armendariz

Self

San Antonio, TX

My name is Rachel Armendariz and I don't agree with tax breaks used for wealthy corporations as stated in Chapter 313. It should be routed to schools and used for the benefit of educating our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Wealthy corporation tax breaks don't help anyone but the greedy corporations' owners and those who are bought by them.

Rachel Armendariz

Elizabeth Chandler

self

San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose Chapter 313 in Texas! I am a retired teacher and special education counselor and still work as a substitute teacher. The percentage of public education funded by the state has fallen steadily for decades--enough is enough. Chapter 313 robs local school districts of billions of dollars and does not bring the jobs or tax dollars promised into the state coffers. Do NOT allow this to continue. Continuing to starve public education is causing great harm to our country. Texas needs to lead the way to something better.

Juan Villarreal

self

Rosharon, TX

My name is Juan Villarreal, and I am a leader with TMO.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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Juan Villarreal

Rena Oden

Macedonia Baptist Church/Metro Leader

Bulverde, TX

Chapter 313 is corporate welfare, ensure it is not resurrected. I takes from the least of these, our children and because it will end in December 2022, corporations are overwhelming the system with expansion and undefined projects.

April Floyd

Central Texas Interfaith, Core Team of All Saints' Episcopal Church

Austin, TX

My name is April Floyd and I am a leader with Central Texas Interfaith.

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Howard Haradon

Self, Retired

San Antonio, TX

Dear Texas House Member; I am against granting Chapter 313 corporate tax breaks. Our local schools here in San Antonio are struggling just to attract enough teachers to fill the classrooms. As reported by KSAT, our local San Antonio ABC news station, San Antonio Independent School Dist. is lacking 80 teachers to begin this school year. Also, Northside ISD is missing 260 teachers from what is needed for their schools, and San Antonio's North East ISD needs some 180 more teachers to have a full cohort. With these schools having trouble recruiting good teachers, it makes no sense to cut their funding by giving away tax breaks to big corporations, many of which are not even based here in Texas.

Thank you, Howard Haradon, San Antonio, Texas

PATRICIA JACKSON

SELF-RETIRED

Austin, TX

Please, please do not use our Tax dollars, especially money for schools, to fund corporations. Our Schools need every piece of these funds, from my tax dollars going to help educate these kids (instead of incarcerating them). Thanks for listening!!!

Grabelita Olivares

Austin Interfaith

Austin, TX

My name is Grabelita Olivares, and I am a member with Austin Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations.

Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

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Grabelita Olivares

Elliot Gilliam, San Antonio

MBC Youth Education

San Antonio, TX

My name is Elliot Gilliam and I am a leader with Macedonia Baptist Church in San Antonio.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for the benefit of big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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Elliot Gilliam

Angelina Gonzalez, Dr.

Central Texas Interfaith

Auatin, TX

My name is Angelina Gonzalez and I am a leader with _____ Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

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Angelina Gonzalez

Elizabeth Rodriguez

Cops/Metro

San Antonio, TX

I oppose efforts to bring back Chapter 313.

Alicia Butler, Mrs.

Macedonia Baptist Church/Social Justice Ministry (SJM)

San Antonio TX, TX

Chapter 313 is a corporate welfare, ensure it is NOT resurrected. I take from the least of these OUR children since it will end in December 2022. Corporations are overwhelming the system w/expansion & undefined projects.

Yahari Butler, II
Macedonia Baptist Church
San Antonio, TX

Chapter 313 is a corporate welfare that does NOT need to be resurrected. At the very least it negatively impacts the children, my sibling, my peers!!

Because it ends in December, corporations are overwhelming the system w/ undefined projects.

Eric M Dorsey
Macedonia Baptist Church/Cops Metro
San Antonio, TX

Chapter 13 is corporate welfare, ensure it is not restricted it takes from the least of these our children

Ronald Ayers
self
Sidney, TX

Chapter 313 should not be revived, simply allow it to expire. It was a massive error to allow any public policy, constitutional provision or statute to in effect pick winners and losers. The Enterprise Fund, and Economic Development Corporations should be abolished, and prohibited in the Texas Constitution as was formerly the case.

Patrick Seitz, Rev.
Valley Interfaith
Edcouch, TX

My name is Rev Patrick Seitz and I am a leader with Valley Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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Respectfully,
Rev. Patrick Seitz

Tina Solis
self
San Antonio, TX

This money should NOT be going to corporations but to our PUBLIC SCHOOLS which are underfunded!

Mary Grace Ketner, Ms.
COPS/Metro San Antonio
San Antonio, TX

My name is Mary Grace Ketner and I am a leader with First Unitarian Universalist Church, the Interfaith Welcome Coalition, and COPS/Metro in San Antonio.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for the benefit of big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year at a time when students, teachers and school districts are trying so hard to simply function. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

James B Ransdell, Mr,
self/ retired tax payer
Seguin, TX

Let 313 die. Do not try to reinstate this bill that is "corporate welfare". It gives incentives that pit states and communities against each other. Why should tax payers flip the bill for a company that is not of any benefit to the area the tax payer lives. Let the local areas do their own incentives.

Carrie Schweitzer, Ms.
self
Dallas, TX

I oppose bringing back Chapter 313 or a new version of corporate welfare. Most tax breaks are not needed: Chapter 313 was created in 2001 to offer a school property tax break to encourage big businesses to relocate to Texas. Recent studies by University of Texas and other scholars indicate that that at least 80% of these companies would come to Texas without the tax breaks—they all claim they won't come without tax breaks—but they are never asked to prove they have a better offer to go to a different state.

Cindy Hamilton
Self
Austin, TX

My name is Cindy Hamilton. I am a retired Texas educator.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

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Cynthia (Cindy) Hamilton

Tim Chandler

Self Retired

San Antonio, TX

I oppose reinstating Chapter 313.

Oscar Solis

UUSA

San Antonio, TX

Distribute. This money to our education system

Dawn Newcomer

Self, retired

Spring, TX

Pease do not renew Chapter 313. It hurts school districts economically; it reduces tax base, necessitating an increase in sales taxes; it isn't needed as 80% of businesses relocate or expand to Texas without it. We need to invest in public education, not take needed funding away in the hopes of corporate education support which never happens.

Sergio Martin

self, Software Engineer

Austin, TX

My name is Sergio Martin and I am a leader with Austin Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools. Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Sincerely,
Sergio Martin

Ron Pack
6P Services, inc. Pack Ranch
Hico, TX

Exclude highly subsidized solar/wind energy development companies from qualifying for Chapter 313 participation. One of the primary requirements for 313 participation is long term permanent local job creation. These so called green renewable energy companies provide very few if any permanent local jobs. In fact, by destroying thousands of acres of productive agricultural land and severely damaging surrounding RealEstate values, there is a definite net job loss. Chapter 313 should be recreated to prevent a 2 tiered tax system that benefits these types of highly subsidized companies and penalize existing community enhancing companies that provide long term jobs and development. Ron Pack. Stephenville, Texas

Steven Zewe
Retired/My family
Columbus, TX

Anytime you draw business to a area for more employment or economic development and school districts offer large tax breaks to do that, then the ones holding the bag for the rest of the taxes owed is an always will be the property owners!
I've owned my property in Colorado county for 30 years and the taxes have increased right at 700% from \$350.00 to \$2500.00 per year. I have been retired for 7 years and my wife retired this last March. Our legislature should begin to actually do something to reduce the burden of taxes on Texas residents. Something besides those gimmick laws they have passed in recent years that have given us bandaids to patch large wounds!
With Regards,
Steven C Zewe Sr
Columbus, Texas

mark wittig
COPS/Metro San Antonio
San Antonio, TX

Taking monies away from the school districts for the benefit of big business is not the answer on how to build our communities. Education is the primary pathway. A

Irma Flores
I/CAN
San Antonio, TX

I am agent chapter 313

Ken Wolf
Self

Kingwood, TX

I have been voting republican my whole life. However, this corporate welfare has got to stop. If this bill passes you can be assured I will vote straight democrat in the mid terms even though it will destroy our country and state. You are no longer a Conservative party but just a bunch of self serving politicians who scream and holler about everything but do nothing. I'm 79 years old and could do a much better job than what you are doing. Governor Abbott is doing the right thing with the illegals.

Linda A Davila

Communities Organized for Public Service/Metro

San Antonio, TX

Unless you do not care that public education in Texas is ranked among the lowest in the United States, then do not read any further. You are not capable of understanding that allowing the Chapter 313 program to sunset was the right and just decision. At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world. These Chapter 313 corporations make billions of dollars in profits, yet still obtain tax breaks at the expense of Texas taxpayers and public education. In 2019 alone, at least 30 companies failed to fulfill their job-creation promises but faced no repercussions. Their tax breaks stayed intact, and they paid no fines. There is little oversight and accountability in tracking by the Texas Comptroller for these commitments.

It hurts public education—every dollar of school property taxes that a corporation doesn't pay is a dollar that does not go to fund public schools—funds that could be used to increase the number of teachers and teacher pay; improve school safety and mental health for students. We need to end corporate tax breaks that use school property taxes in order to properly fund our schools. Education is the foundation of economic development and diversity. Why don't you support education first? Provide the resources necessary to educate and grow our very own Texan-owned businesses. These Texas-grown businesses will embrace the responsibility they have to our communities and their future workforce without decimating public education funding.

Linda Davila

Lifelong resident of this great State of Texas

COPS/Metro Leader

Sandra Knutson

Dallas Area Interfaith

Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose the renewing of Chapter 313. Should Chapter 313 be renewed, public schools are going to be the losers. And when schools suffer, we all are the poorer for it.

Mary Barad

self, retired Nurse Practitioner

San Antonio, TX

My name is Mary Barad and I am a leader with First Unitarian Universalist Church and COPS/Metro in San Antonio.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for the benefit of big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

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Leila Levinson

Self- mental health therapist

Austin, TX

My name is Leila Levinson, and I am a leader with Central Texas Interfaith.

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Cricia Ryan

Personal, Wharton Co Against Wind Farms + Wharton Co Against Solar Farms

El Campo, TX

Renewables (or any company) that is not bringing in 100+ jobs and showing long term continual growth- should not be eligible for 313 or any abatements.

Currently, wind and solar project substantially decline in value from the day they are built. They provide little to no long term jobs, while negatively effect hundred of other jobs, including taking thousands of dollars, and in the long term, millions out of the agriculture economy. In Wharton Co alone, we will be losing approximately 30,000 acres top producing Agriculture acres due to solar and wind in the 2022-2023 year. With many more projects on the line. Some of these projects are moving forward without any abatements- meaning atleast they'll be paying full tax value which will be dispersed among higher needed districts (as the 'Robinhood' plan had intended).

Regarding wind- the WHO recognizes and identified the many dangers of living within a wind turbine- including vibrations which affect both the sound & autonomic system. Real estate value is also negatively effected by both wind and industrial solar projects. While I do support free choice of land use, Texas is ruled by the Dillions law, which means communities have no way to pass ordinances or get protection from local authorities regarding- building distance proximity, sound limits, height limits, flashing lights, etc. These are things the citizens of Texas desperately need as these projects move into higher populated areas. For example, we own an Agriculture Aviation Service, which has been in service since the 1940s. Currently, a w 640 ft wind turbine is set to be constructed within 1 mile north of our airstrip. This will negatively impact us as a business and the way we serve our farmers and ranchers. Making some forms of aviation (such as carrying heavy loads of fertilizer for rice fields) now dangerous from our airstrip. The FAA exempts Part 137 from wind studies and Texas provides no form of protection at the local or state level. Our business will be negatively impacted by this project.

The only group getting any short term (false-positive) impact to the school system, which is often ran by super intendants not within the district and not concerned about the long term effects to the community. If you look at Nolan Co (often referred to as the wind capital of Texas) since the projects have moved in, the county population has declined! Doing the opposite of what the 313/312 program has intended to do.

I have worked with Wharton Co Against Wind Farms + Wharton County Against Solar Farms & have first hand experienced how much information is withheld from the public as big organizations silence locals. We simply do not have the funds to share our personal experiences.

Please stop allowing renewable companies (who are often owned by foreign investors), to save millions while bringing long term harm to our communities.

Furthermore, please bring reliable forms of electricity to our grid!

Christie Limmer, Miss

Self

Rosebud, TX

I have thoroughly done my research about clean energy, this is the way of the future in about 100 years. Clean energy is sadly being rolled out based on lies, and being sold to the public as facts and truths. But in reality, no real studies have been done, nothing from soil testing, animal case study, damage it does on the human body, or to drinking water, or fire studies. In California they have stopped counting- verifying the amount of fires that solar panels cause since 2019, that is fraudulent & pushing a agenda. There is no real historical data being compared with future forecasting of clean energy, or even if solar panels that are halfway affordable, or safe.

Let's be honest, this is a bait and switch in a bear market. These companies will be going belly up within 2 years. This happened in Spain, look at the current events in Germany, nobody wants this. If they do, its simply because they have there hand in the piggy banking waiting for there part of the payout. Schools are being "promised" X amount of money if they build solar farms in a certain county, after lies that are told, ink has dried and everything is built, schools get pennies. Nothing!

Start with the business model of past solar projects. Why would a company take up hundreds of acres of land to put untested, unstudied, unsustainable- very costly solar panels on them for up to ten years? Unless, you want them to fail? There is an underlying back door deals being made with hedge funds, corporations, or people like bill gates. The top 1% will only benefit in 10-15 years. Why would anybody do that, unless that is the point, the sole purpose, the reason!!!

I believe the clean energy narrative is being pushed so hard is to purposely bring down the value of the farming land, so in 10 - 15 years big companies can come in and buy the land for absolutely nothing.

During that 10-15 year contract span, all of these studies will suddenly appear, purposely filled with terrible results from these studies, so new laws will be made in favor of who can afford to come in and clean up the solar mess they made to start with. Then those big hedge fund bosses will build condominiums, amusement parks, shopping malls, big car lots, or new head quarters will come with jobs.. Something other than what the land was once used for.. Not to mention that the families that once's lived there will be taxed out of there homes, and be forced to move.

The clean energy-solar panel is just a new kinda mob rule, or get-rich- scam. Good people, should not be used as pons because big companies don't want to buy expensive real estate (that they created) for there new stupid ideas. Buy old building, old malls, old army posts and tests this new energy bill on that land, at least it would have concrete to put them on, prevent fires, and hell it would be easy to sweep up the mess when an act of god rolls in.. like a lighting storm, a hot sunny day, or even a tornado. I unapologetically vote NO!!

Deanna DeHaven

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Deanna DeHaven, a resident of Texas with three children in Texas public schools.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school

property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

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Deanna DeHaven

D. Bruce Nieli, Rev.

Self/Catholic Priest

Austin, TX

Vote against

Joyce Boelsche, Mrs.

Self-retired teacher

Buda, TX

My name is Joyce Boelsche and I am a member of Corridor Central Texas Interfaith. I am opposed to bringing back Chapter 313. It costs our education program over \$1 billion to fund this program, money that we desperately need! Please don't put this \$1 billion on the backs of the taxpayers of Texas!

Big corporations don't need this money, our schools do!

Laurie Solis

self

Austin, TX

My name is Laurie Solis and I'm a mom of 2 public school students and deeply concerned that Texas ranks 45th nationally in basic allotment funding per student. I believe that the Chapter 313 program contributes to our state's poor education funding levels. While I see the motivation for businesses to move to Texas because of the Chapter 313 tax giveaway benefit, I see that a consequence is that wealthy corporations are benefitting and that the loss of that revenue is hindering our public schools ability to meet basic education standards that promote quality education such as low teacher to staff ratios, safe, secure, and healthy facilities, and a well retained educator workforce. I proudly pay my share of state and local property taxes, but a system in which the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe our children and teachers is simply unfair. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to the hardworking parents and people of this great state. The Texas Legislature can make the right choice by recognizing that we are playing catch-up to the losses COVID has created and that our future abilities to have a skilled workforce depends on stopping Chapter 313 and taxing wealthy corporations in order to raise the basic allotment for public education.

Paula Vaughan

Central Texas Interfaith

Austin, TX

My name is Paula Vaughan and I am a leader with the South Austin sector of Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

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Respectfully,

Paula Vaughan

Central Texas Interfaith
<http://www.austininterfaith.org/>

Kryisia Lynes
Self -Accountant
Houston, TX

My name is Kryisia Lynes and I am an accountant and participant with TMO. I am a parent of two children and a former PTA Council President. I care deeply about public education and feel it is both inadequately and inequitably funded. I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Sincerely
Kryisia Lynes

Kevin Freeman
Self
MABANK, TX

Do not reinstate ch313, period

Nancy Martel
Self
Spring, TX

Do not renew

Moira Davis
self

Sugar Land, TX

Please do not continue giving tax abatements to large scale solar plants (via Ch 313 or any other). Our productive family farm in Bell County is under threat of being surrounded by an industrial scale solar plant. There are many more installations planned in Bell county. One of our biggest concerns is big solar going on prime farmland (ie the Blackland Prairie is the most fertile soil in Texas). Once in solar, it will never go back to farming. We must look out for our future farmers and the ability to grow crops on such valuable farmland.

Let the solar companies compete just like any other business. They do not need the incentive to come to Texas - they are coming anyway. If they can't make it financially, then they shouldn't be here in the first place.

If you decide to continue the CH 313 and to benefit Solar and Wind, then you must establish "smart siting" rules to prevent these installations being placed on prime farmland and so close to homes, homesteads, animals and crops. Until you can be absolutely sure that they will not negatively impact the soil or water, then you must first establish proper studies and regulations to manage these risks. These panels are not just made of silicon. We have concerns with what will happen from damaged panels. Our area is not immune to wind and hail events.

Lastly, we have huge concerns with solar plant fires. The combination of high temperatures, drought, wind, acres of crops, solar and batteries - makes for a very risky situation. What will happen when a thousand acres of drying corn catches fire from a solar plant fire that was not properly contained? Many rural fire departments are made up of volunteers that likely do not have the proper training or equipment to handle these types of fires.

Please do not continue Ch 313 abatements and help us manage big solar taking over our precious farmland. Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

A Rose

Self/Sales

Comfort, TX

Drop this completely! No more tax breaks!!!

Everett Lunning

Central Texa Interfaith

Austin, TX

My name is Everett Lunning, and I am a leader for Central Texas Interfaith and a parishioner at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Austin. In November 2016, The Texas Observer reported that Chapter 313 was born in a typographical error in the business journal Site Selection in 2000. A chart mistakenly ranked Texas 37th in new million-dollar development projects. The legislature revved its engines and wrote the Texas Economic Development Act, a prodigious piece of corporate welfare. For 21 years Chapter 313 has supported individual school districts while reducing the financial support for the whole system. We must not take from our state financial support for Texas schools and give to the richest corporations in the US. The journal Education Week ranks Texas 41st among the states for school finance. Chapter 313 is not the remedy for this miserable performance. Texas businesses should demonstrate good citizenship and support schools across the entire state and not just in the counties where they operate.

I spent 45 years in the classroom, working with elementary students, high-school students, and university students. I have seen the effect of Texas's unfortunate reliance on standardized tests to measure school performance. I have retaught writing skills to high-school students that they should have learned in middle school. Likewise, I have retaught composition skills to university students they should have learned in high school. Texas schools face challenges, most of all consistent and equitable support from state government. Chapter 313 is not the answer. Scrap it.

Patrick Madden, Mr

Self

Mckinney, TX

Do not renew chapter 313 of the Texas tax code

Matthew Killian, Mr

Self

Hutto, TX

Using chapter 313 to invite “green energy’s” into a community is miss use of the agreement. Green energy’s use fare to many waivers to make them viable and comply with the 313. Subsidizing solar and wind will only harm the community not help build or maintain the community.

James Killian, Dr

Self/JMJ Farms

Troy, TX

I am strongly against any subsidies or allowances for solar and wind on prime Texas farm land. The central texas prairie prime Blackland is being targeted for installation of large solar developments, initiated by investment groups all registered in Delaware. This is a massive plan to make texas the US leader in solar farms exceeding Calif at the expense of prime farm land necessary in the future for crops especially to be available to feed Tx as weather changes and prices affect overall world production of crops. These out of state corps are here because of federal and Texas subsidies and are fooling both landowners and politicians as to the financial and energy benefits which were actively pointed out during the tx freeze.

Please stop these developments and especially don’t facilitate them by tax subsidies such as the 313.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

James M Killian M D

Virginia Pohlmeier

self

Austin, TX

My name is Virginia Pohlmeier, I am a retired Texas teacher. I have taught in Austin, Round Rock, Brownsvilled, and Kyle, Texas.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools. Corporations don’t come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Thank you for your consideration.

Virginia Pohlmeier

Mark Ramsey
Self - Engineer
Spring, TX

Chapter 313 waivers and other scam deals are despised by grassroots taxpayers of BOTH PARTIES, as evidenced by platform planks in BOTH PARTIES' platforms. They grossly distort costs of education, by putting burdens on local taxpayers who do NOT have the waivers when a big company moves in. They grossly distort the mission of school districts by diluting it to include LESS FOCUS ON EDUCATION and ADDITIONAL FOCUS (and staff and expenses) relating to lobby-driven business development. They expand the already bloated administration staff in taking on a function completely unrelated to EDUCATION itself. These terrible and immoral waivers were finally removed from Texas laws last session, one of the only big "wins" for taxpayers. Please do not even think about putting them back into place. THIS IS A TERRIBLE IDEA!

Jeanette Hargreaves
self, stay at home mom and author
Austin, TX

Honorable committee members,
I don't write political letters very often.
I'm writing today to oppose Chapter 313 and any other legislation that will hurt our families and children.
The schools need all the help they can get. Our large corporations come here because of our high quality of people. They don't need more tax breaks. As a homeowner and resident since 2003, I shoulder more than my share of taxes. It's time our companies pay their share too.
Thank you.
Jeanette Hargreaves, M.Div.

john thorngren
self
denton, TX

PLEASE-PLEASE DO NOT RENEW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Miriam Parris, Ms.
Self/Retired
AUSTIN, TX

My name is Miriam Parris and I am a member of Austin Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Thank you for your consideration.

Miriam Parris

Beth Cusack

Self

Fairview, TX

I oppose bringing back Chapter 313 or a new version of corporate welfare. Chapter 313 defunds public education. Every school property tax dollar that the corporation gets forgiven is a dollar that does not go to fund public schools—funds that could be used to increase the number of teachers and teacher pay; improve school safety and mental health for students. Texas can't afford these corporate tax breaks either since our legislature would need to pay school districts another \$1000 per child to keep up with inflation. We need to eliminate corporate tax breaks in order to more fully fund our schools. Corporations don't need the help.

Diane Owens

Austin Interfaith

Austin, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world. I urge the legislature to make the right decision for our educational system. Texas should lead the nation in the quality of schools, instead, Texas ranks 43rd in educational attainment. With appropriate funding from the legislature, Texas can lead the nation in educational attainment.

Sincerely,

Diane Owens

Paul Skeith, Rev.

Central Texas Interfaith & SoCo Episcopal Community

Austin, TX

My name is Fr. Paul Skeith, and I am a pastor and leader with Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come to Texas because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children, and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Sincerely,

Paul Skeith

Kevin Russell

Mt Lakes Property Tax Group

Bluff Dale, TX

The Chapter 313 has to go. Taxpayers should NOT be having to subsidize wind and solar industries that are largely unregulated at the local level. Solar subsidies receive a disproportionate amount of energy subsidies and need to exist on their own merits without taxpayer handouts. Solar is unreliable in a crisis and should only be used to supplement more reliable energy forms. Taxpayer subsidies should promote reliable forms of energy. Eliminate wind and solar from Chap 313. Better yet, eliminate Chapter 313 altogether. It is a broken wasteful system.

Ashley Hanks

Self/Consulting Manager

Dallas, TX

School property taxes should be spent on schools not on corporate welfare. Chapter 313 hurts public education—every school property tax dollar that the corporation gets forgiven is a dollar that does not go to fund public schools—funds that could be used to increase the number of teachers and teacher pay; improve school safety and mental health for students. Right now, the legislature would need to pay school districts another \$1000 per child to keep up with inflation. We need to corporate tax breaks to fund our schools. I strongly oppose bringing back Chapter 313 or any new version of corporate welfare. Should you be considering Chapter 313 or similar legislation, first collect and present evidence that this legislation is doing more good than harm. Evidence that corporations would not come to Texas? Evidence that corporations are "repaying" or "paying forward" the tax break via creation of new jobs or positive impact on quality of life? Actual investments that are having a positive impact? Vote no to Chapter 313.

Philip Francis

self

Temple, TX

As a property owner & tax payer in Bell County I feel like the tax abatement is a slap in the face. Especially after our property taxes have gone up this year. Also using valuable crop land is absurd not to mention the effect the solar farms will have on the wildlife & the land. This could be devastating for generations. I personally am against the solar farms being on fertile soil when west Texas has land that they are suited for the solar. Also what will these companies do at the end of the lifecycle, probably just unplug & leave a mess for the land owners.

Henry Vines

self - Customer Service Manager

Austin, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Henry Vines

Helen Williams

self

Fairview, TX

I am opposed to Chapter 313. It is a new version of corporate welfare. Chapter 313 sucks more money from public education. Every school property tax dollar that the corporation gets forgiven is a dollar that does not go to fund public schools—funds that could be used to increase the number of teachers and teacher pay; improve school safety and mental health for students. Texas can't afford these corporate tax breaks either since our legislature would need to pay school districts another \$1000 per child to keep up with inflation. We need to eliminate corporate tax breaks in order to fund our schools. Corporations don't need the help.

Lisa Robertson

Austin Interfaith

Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition of the reinstatement of chapter 313. This legislation was defeated a number of years ago by active citizens because of its negative impact to public education. With the continuing stress factors on public education specifically the needs of special education students as well as the safety factors based on the incident in Uvalde, Texas, I believe that money does not need to be taken away from public education. Instead I believe money needs to be added with a systematic plan for use of that money to address the needs of students with special education and school safety.

Respectfully,

Lisa Robertson

Member of Austin interfaith and Faith United Methodist Church

Suzanne Baker

Central Texas Interfaith Leader

San Marcos, TX

My name is Suzanne Baker, and I am a leader with Corridor Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools. Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Suzanne Baker

Jennifer Haney

Self / Insurance sales

Ullard, TX

No solar!!! We need our farmlands to feed Americans.

Julie Neitzel

Hill Elementary School

Austin, TX

I am a concerned public school student parent of two elementary school students. Texas ranks 45th nationally in funding per student and the Chapter 313 program contributes to our state's austere and irresponsible education funding levels. The Legislature has deliberately neglected our students, teachers, and staff through the Chapter 313 tax giveaway program. As a result of prioritizing corporate tax giveaways over our children and educators, our public schools are unable to meet basic education standards like low teacher to staff ratios, safe and healthy facilities, and a well retained educator workforce. I proudly pay my share of state and local property taxes, but a system in which the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe our children and teachers is simply unfair. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to the hardworking parents and people of this great state. Chapter 313 is designed to favor the wealthiest corporations over hardworking people like me. Parents of all backgrounds, whether middle or working class, Black, brown, or white, are watching the legislature closely on this issue. The Texas Legislature can make the right choice by stopping Chapter 313 and taxing wealthy corporations to raise the basic allotment for public education.

Kay Love

Self

Stockdale, TX

As the Texas House Ways and Means Committee begins to conduct a review of Chapter 313 of the Tax Code, I would like to respectfully remind the Committee of the reasons Chapter 313 has met resistance in Austin and throughout the state of Texas. Even the Republican Party has urged the cancellation of Chapter 313 in its current platform. I am told the Democratic Party did likewise. That alone should inform the Committee's decisions regarding Chapter 313.

The program did not fulfill the stated intent of the statute which required school districts approve only applications that enhanced the community, improved education, created high-paying jobs and advanced state economic development goals.

There was no enhancement to the local community. Power produced was not to be available in the district in most cases. Education improvement was not addressed. No high paying jobs were being created by renewable projects. (Most school districts were encouraged to wave the statutory jobs requirement.)The program has cost the state of Texas an estimated 1 billion annually.

There was no requirement for notice to landowners that were included in reinvestment zones or citizens within the districts. I urge you to examine the application for Blackjack Plains Renewables LLC on the Texas Comptrollers website under "1739-stockdale-blackjack-app". No notification was afforded the large number of landowners that could be affected by Chapter 313 in Wilson County. It has become a secret program run by LLC's with rapidly changing names and ownership.

Renewable companies highjacked Chapter 313 and have begun making a wasteland of rural Texas with no recourse provided to

local landowners, counties, and affected communities. Please deny any tax limitations to renewable energy companies in Texas.

There is NO return on investment for the state of Texas.

Melvin Davis, Mr.

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Please stop providing 313 tax abatements for Solar Companies who plan to put Solar Farms on prime Texas Farmlands. There is ample land that is better suited for Solar where communities and farm land is not impacted. I believe 313 tax abatements have been misused and abused from the intended purpose far to often. Solar installations are a prime example. They create no lasting employment opportunities in the communities where they are installed, and simply provide a vehicle for continuing the Solar pyramid schemes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Melvin Davis

Barbara Frandsen, retired teacher

ATPE

Austin, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Your Name

Barbara Frandsen

Bob Simmons

Self. Retired.

Austin, TX

In no way should this foolishness continue unabated. The state of Texas has no business, nor is there any justification for taxpayers being obligated to provide relief of taxes to any business for any reason. This is simply another communist effort by socialists in our legislature to continue down this path and rule 313 should be abolished in its entirety and no thought should be given to replace it.

Bob Simmons

Trish Merrill

retired

Austin, TX

My name is Trish Merrill and I am a leader with Central Texas Interfaith. I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other legislation that reduces property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion in potential funding each year.

Our public schools need support. Big corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of all of our natural resources. Our school districts are struggling to keep teachers, to deal with safety issues and provide mental health services, therefore, we must fund our schools not the wealthy corporations. Trish Merrill, Central Texas Interfaith

Dakota Massey

Self, Urban Outreach

Eddy, TX

I believe that Chapter 313 should not be continued or even modified, especially when it comes to Big Solar. These companies prey on rural areas, hoping that landowners will sign over their land so big solar can profit. 313s only allow these companies to put more money into their pocket while having little respect for the land. Please end Chapter 313, especially for Big Solar Companies.

Emily Doscocil, Ms

Myself

Hurst, TX

Chapter 313 is horrible. So much money has been handed out so far and these needs to stop. If a company cannot stand on their own, maybe Texas should not give them all of the funds needed to start an operation. Let them go to another state, who cares. Texas is beautiful and we are slowing running it down, if it keeps going, we will not be able to correct the problem. I just saw 2 new Chapter 313's hit the TX Comptroller site the other day. Both are not to lease, but to SELL Texas land to a foreign country, both do NOT clarify where materials are being sourced and processed before being shipped to Texas. And both say that in addition to 313, they are applying for 311, 312, 380 and 381. Why are we doing this? It is a quick easy buck for the ISD, City or County....but at what cost? Has anyone watched the news lately and seen what is happening to California and other countries that are trying to go green to fast? It is an absolute disaster. We need to stop this.

Archer McWhorter

self, realtor

Austin, TX

I am opposed to the practice of school districts giving major tax breaks to businesses, often cutting their taxes by 50% over ten years. Please let Chapter 313 expire without a replacement and end this practice.

Elle Larkin

We the People Allen

Allen, TX

I DO NOT want this to be brought back!!! This is not a good thing for Texas taxpayers!

Jennifer Green

self

Houston, TX

I'm against solar panel plants being installed on Texas farmlands. They are ugly and destroy the beauty of the natural farmlands.

Chase Greer

Self / Student

Cypress, TX

My name is Chase Greer. I am a former student of Cy-Fair ISD and a member First Metropolitan Church.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes in favor of big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. That means that more teachers and students suffer in the present and, our collective future takes another hit. This is especially harmful at a time like now, with the already well documented struggles that have been caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Corporations shouldn't come here because they know they are going to get a very generous tax break. They should locate here because of our qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Thank you,
Chase Greer

Lana Sund

Self

Shavano Park, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 and anything that reduces school property taxes for the benefit of big corporations. We don't need to bribe corporations to come to Texas.

Our schools are struggling. We do need to provide better funding for our schools and we need to beef up security and provide mental health resources. We need to pay our teachers more, not subsidize wealthy corporations.

Karen Derr

Realtor

LaGrange, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. If the chapter really did generate jobs, that might be acceptable but we cannot fill the jobs we have in Texas and also exceptions are being granted to this program so that it gives tax breaks to companies generating as little as 10 or less jobs. In one case 1 job while the Chapter 313 project will take away thousands of acres of agricultural land which does provide family business with income. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar

of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to corporations.

Jose Hinojosa
Valley Interfaith
McAllen, TX

It's expensive—Corporations are now receiving over \$1 Billion in school property tax breaks every year through these deals.

It hurts public education—every dollar of school property taxes that a corporation doesn't pay is a dollar that does not go to fund public schools—funds that could be used to increase the number of teachers and teacher pay; improve school safety and mental health for students. We need to end corporate tax breaks that use school property taxes in order to properly fund our schools.

Less local property tax revenue means more sales taxes are needed— Public schools in Texas are paid for by both local school property taxes and by State of Texas tax revenue—mostly sales tax. When corporations don't pay their fair share, the State has to use more sales tax revenue to fully fund public education. As a result, YOU are subsidizing tax breaks for Tesla Motors, Exxon Mobile, Samsung and other Fortune 500 companies.

Most tax breaks are not needed: Chapter 313 was created in 2001 to offer a school property tax break to encourage big businesses to relocate to Texas. Recent studies by Nate Jensen of University of Texas and other scholars indicate that that at least 80% of these companies would come to Texas without the tax breaks.

Companies don't come to Texas because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind).

Some Corporations are like "Hogs at the Trough": Chapter 313 will end December 31, 2022. In a normal year, about 80 to 90 corporations ask for Chapter 313 tax breaks. In 2022, corporations have asked for over 400 tax breaks for projects that could cost us billions more in school property taxes each year. For example, Samsung is asking for 9 tax breaks for projects they may build through 2045. Chenier is asking for tax breaks on liquified natural gas projects they may build in 2038 and 2042.

School districts which offer these deals get "contributions" from the corporations: About 5% of Texas school districts are granting these tax breaks. Corporations can pay school districts \$100 per student as an incentive (Payment in Lieu of Taxation) to accept these deals. Those 5% of school districts are getting as much as \$50 million each year in corporate payments while the 95% of school districts would be better off if the school property taxes they are forgiving were used to increase the per pupil funding of ALL Texas schools. These funds usually disappear into a school foundation where there are few reporting requirements or public oversight.

Corporations are not asked to do much for hundreds of millions in tax breaks: Chapter 313 only required that corporations commit to create 10 new jobs that pay 10% over the average wage in the area to qualify for a tax break. Most of these deals are costing over \$1 Million in property taxes for each promised job. There is little oversight by the Texas Comptroller for these commitments which a

Fannie Akingbala
Central Texas Interfaith
Austin, TX

My name is Fannie Akingbala and I am an everyday citizen, mom, grandma, and leader with Central Texas Interfaith. I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other action that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools. Our schools are direly suffering from lack of funds and deminishing funds presently. Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children, insure code compliant building, and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Fannie Akingbala

Jane Holland
self/retired librarian
Houston, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it costs public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Given the recent news about significant learning gaps due to the pandemic, the last thing we need to do is take public school tax dollars and give them to corporations.

Jane Holland

Elke Baitis
self/indexer
Austin, TX

I am an ally with Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety and mental health our children, we must generously and properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Elke Baitis

Ronald Brakke

Brakke Consulting

DALLAS, TX

Please do not renew this give away to large corporations.

Amy Holden

Self

Krum, TX

Tax subsidies for these solar companies is a complete scam. It's taxation without representation and the solar companies get wealthy but our power bills do not get reduced and these solar companies and their cronies get rich off of destroying good farm land while the rest of us see no benefit. Why would anyone continue this nonsense of subsidies for them to get rich and be the only real beneficiary of our tax dollars ? Solar panels only produce power about 6 hours a day and a third of it is lost in transmission. Solar and wind are two of the biggest scams being pushed down our throats.

This insanity must STOP and Texas should be the first to put an end to it!!!!

Reilly Killian

Self

Waelder, TX

Protect precious farmland from big solar taking control of it

MARJORIE GALLECE

Self

Austin, TX

Stop the tax give aways and loopholes for wealthy corporations that is crippling our schools and educators. If they want to do business in Texas then they must pay for that privilege by supporting schools and communities. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to all of us. Chapter 313 favors the wealthiest corporations over hardworking Texans, and it's wrong. I am calling on Texas legislators to make the right choice and stop Chapter 313 and all wasteful tax giveaways.

John Killian, Dvm

Bar K Veterinary

Stratford, TX

Oppose encouraging solar farms on farmland since once developed, this land will never feed us again.... how is this 'sustainable'?

Cecilia Weber

Self, grant writer

Austin, TX

I pay my share of state and local property taxes, but the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe in my community. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to all of us. Chapter 313 favors the wealthiest corporations over hardworking Texans, and it's wrong. I am calling on Texas legislators to make the right choice and stop Chapter 313 and all wasteful tax giveaways.

Joanna Friebele, Ms

Texas Coalition for Environmentally Safe Solar

Dublin, TX

I will not insult this committee by giving you the background on the Ch 313, you know what it is and what it does. I will say that I have fought several and won at the local school board level and it has been an education process for myself and the school board members.

I am not against manufacturing and bringing jobs to communities, which could be an economic benefit, but I am against the renewables who have hogged a large portion of the projects, 61%, with only 13% of the jobs going to these projects. Many of the school board members do not even know they have signed the job waivers.

Ch 313, has become a tool for corporations and shareholders to become wealthy at the expense of every taxpayer in the state. Renewables are feeding on the program and giving no economic benefit to local residents of under served and financially struggling communities. They are using valuable farmland close to the cities and adding to what will be a growing food crisis.

This corporate raiding, or theft is becoming a huge burden on disadvantaged communities and taxpayers who are struggling to hold onto their land and pay their fair share of taxes, while billions are being given away by local school boards. The "side deals" of revenue protection payments and supplemental payments are no more than bribe money, since the school don't see any change in their revenue under the school finance laws.

It is unfair to unleash these unscrupulous corporations and their lawyers onto the unwitting school boards who have little experience dealing with piranhas. They come in waving money and telling tales of the wonderful future they will all have together and how much the companies are going to do for the communities. Basically, they don't care, it's all about the money, our money, but to schools looking for money wherever they can get it, it sounds like a wonderful bonus. They are unwitting ponies in the game.

With the economic atmosphere, as it is today, and the total failure of renewables causing the death of 200-700 people last year during the winter storm; and how many more in California and Europe this winter, I think it is time for the renewables to go away – certainly from the Ch 313 program.

I think it is time for our legislators to recognize the potential harm of renewables to our future, as seen play out in front of our eyes in Europe. Please pay attention and don't lead us down the same long and winding road to economic disaster and energy poverty. If corporations want to do business, let the free-market system work, and if they can't make money, then they should go away. That's how it works for the rest of us. They have been collecting subsidies of one sort or another since 1974, it's time they grew up and stood on their own two feet. My biggest fear is that they will abandon these sites when they age and are no longer profitable and we will be left with graveyards of solar facilities across the state. SB 760 won't save us.

Ira Dember

FairNow.org

Houston, TX

Let the Chapter 313 tax giveaway expire. Do not continue it or replace it with another corrupt giveaway to big corporations and wealthy investors. Stop the scam, retire the ripoff. Thank you.

Sarah Jordan Stout
Self, communications
Houston, TX

I pay my share of state and local property taxes, but the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe in my community. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to all of us. Chapter 313 favors the wealthiest corporations over hardworking Texans, and it's wrong. I am calling on Texas legislators to make the right choice and stop Chapter 313 and all wasteful tax giveaways.

Kathryn Burns, Ms.
self (retired writer/editor)
Kerrville, TX

I am writing to object to the proposed Chapter 313, which as I understand it would grant tax breaks to major corporations while our public schools remain underfunded. Our children deserve better, as do the teachers tasked with educating them. I get the logic that big businesses create jobs and revenue, but that's not always true. Meanwhile, our public school systems are widely viewed as inadequate. Our youth deserve a better future, and we're neglecting that. Please reconsider this proposed legislation.

Charlotte Gilman
NA
Cedar Creek, Texas, TX

It was shocking to me to learn today that the reinstatement of the awful corporate welfare 313 was being considered. I oppose legislation of any kind based on the principal of 313 where taxes are reduced for big corporations.

I was already concerned about the examples of applications being filled by businesses to get in under the deadline for the end of this bad legislation.

It's pretty obvious that the corporations see it as a bonanza for them. Samsang, for example, has asked for tax breaks for projects that they may or may not build by 2045.

I'm seeing my beloved Bastrop county being attacked by entities who are moving into the county and are and will increasingly be straining our resources, especially water, which is already being sent out of the county via the public/private SAWS pipeline to the detriment of the county's residents..

Another way 313 is not good for our county is the kind of projects claiming these tax breaks. For example, there is already one solar farm and another has applied under 313 whose projects include major acreage of our woods being clear cut.

This legislation indeed adds to the wounding of our community by in reality taking away from support of our schools. Chapter 313 died because it is costing 1 billion dollars in potential funding each year. Theoretically, the tax revenues will come from the taxes of those who are employed by the businesses, but that has been shown to be true in the majority of cases..

We don't need businesses moving into our communities who do not have enough of an interest in our the health of our communities to wish to pay for the costs of their doing so by paying taxes like all of us do.

313 died because it needed too. Our governor said so when he signed it. I concur. I hope you will too.

Laticia Levi, Registered Dental Hygienist

Central Texas Interfaith

Sugar Land, TX

My name is Laticia Levi and I am a leader with Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Laticia Levi RDH

Central Texas Interfaith

Susan Pascoe

Self Retired RN

Austin, TX

I pay my share of state and local property taxes, but the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe in my community. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to all of us. Chapter 313 favors the wealthiest corporations over hardworking Texans, and it's wrong. I am calling on Texas legislators to make the right choice and stop Chapter 313 and all wasteful tax giveaways.

Kathryn Franklin

self homemaker and tax payer

Universal City, TX

I am a tax payer in Bexar County, and I wish to express my intention that Chapter 313 NOT be extended to corporations. Everyone, including corporations, should pay their fair share of taxes.

Janet Lopez

self

Wimberley, TX

My name is Janet Lopez and I receive information from COPS/Metro in San Antonio.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for the benefit of big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Thank you for your time for the well being of our state.

Respectfully,

Janet Lopez

Louise Cook, MS.

self Property owner

Round Rock, TX

It is hard for one to justify the value of the Chapter 313 option.

The Corporation is getting a tax break at the expense of our children and their education. We should remember today's students are our future.

It would seem that the 313 option is designed to entice large corporations to move here, however corporations are looking to locate here for the healthy infrastructure, a abundant workforce, quality lower and higher education.

Makes no sense to give away dollars and shortchange ourselves and our children.

Christopher Gillis

Self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose bringing back chapter 313 or any other scheme to reduce school tax funding.

Bari Brookman

Self

Ft Worth, TX

I pay my share of state and local property taxes, but the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe in my community. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to all of us. Chapter 313 favors the wealthiest corporations over hardworking Texans, and it's wrong. I am calling on Texas legislators to make the right choice and stop Chapter 313 and all wasteful tax giveaways.

Scott Albert

Scott Albert

San Antonio, TX

I pay my share of state and local property taxes, but the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe in my community. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to all of us. Chapter 313 favors the wealthiest corporations over hardworking Texans, and it's wrong. I am calling on Texas legislators to make the right choice and stop Chapter 313 and all wasteful tax giveaways.

William Hoy

Retired Public School Teacher

Denison, TX

Please do the right thing for public schools.

Silvia Patricia González-Villaseñor

Long time Austinite

AUSTIN, TX

My name is Patricia González-Villaseñor and I have been living and working in Austin for the past 18 years as a Public Educator.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools. We, Public educators, are having to take a second or third job to pay our bills. Politicians call for across-the-board raises but never give anything. Instead of using Chapter 313 and allowing companies to get rich, we need to think about our communities. Raising teacher pay is a matter of simple fairness, and companies should pay their fair share as well as a way to attract better teachers and improve educational outcomes.

compensated, and teacher pay and benefits have risen faster over time than compensation in private-sector jobs. Failure to recognize these facts can lead education reform down a blind alley.

We are supporting our work by paying for our own school and work materials.

Corporations shouldn't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure, and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children. and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Patricia González-Villaseñor

Edna Molina

CopsMetro

San Antonio, TX

Chapter 313 is totally unnecessary! It allows rich corporations to rip off money needed for quality public education. Quality education is what is needed in order to have the kind of workforce that corporations need in order to be successful.

Ramona Reid

self

Hamilton, TX

As a 5th generation Texan and a ranch owner, I am appalled by the subsidies that 313's afford the corrupt renewable energy industry. You are allowing the destruction of the God given beauty of Texas with wind turbines and allowing the destruction of valuable farmland for solar farms. All to line politician and lobbyist pockets and all to destabilize our energy grid. People DIED due to failures of renewable energy!! Please STOP this insanity!

You are asking Texans to pay the subsidies to decrease their quality of life and decrease their property values. LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD AND STOP FAVORING WIND AND SOLAR OVER OTHER ENERGY SOURCES! ENOUGH ALREADY!

Silvia González-Villaseñor

Austinite

AUSTIN, TX

My name is Patricia González-Villaseñor and I have been living and working in Austin for the past 18 years as a Public Educator.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools. We, Public educators, are having to take a second or third job to pay our bills. Politicians call for across-the-board raises but never give anything. Instead of using Chapter 313 and allowing companies to get rich, we need to think about our communities. Raising teacher pay is a matter of simple fairness. Corporations that want to move to our area should pay their fair share as well. We need to find better ways to attract teachers and improve educational outcomes, compensating them fairly. On the contrary, teachers' salaries in our city haven't risen faster over time than compensation in private-sector jobs. We are supporting our schools by paying for our own school supplies. Corporations shouldn't come here because of tax breaks. They should move here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure, and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children. and provide the mental health support that our students need. We as a city and state must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world and let our schools and employees to try to survive by themselves.

Patricia González-Villaseñor

Douglas Reid, Dr.

Self

Texas, TX

Please do not re-enact Chapter 313 as it relates to renewable energy projects. The overdependence on "renewable" energy have endangered Texas' power grid leading to the loss of life and property. Equally important, these projects have pitted neighbor against neighbor; some profiting from despoiling Texas's scenic beauty and transforming it to a industrial wasteland, while his neighbors that want to retain the natural beauty have it destroyed. As a side note, most materials used in solar and wind projects are manufactured overseas, typically Chinese. The company's that profit from the tax breaks are usually foreign concerns.

Finally, the minimum number of jobs that Chapter 313 was intended to create almost never materialized, especially as it relates to the wind projects. In almost all cases, the projects were granted waivers allowing the developers not fulfill the job requirements.

To summarize, Chapter 313 allowed wind and solar projects to damage to Texas' electrical grid, create significant discord between neighbors in rural areas, and enriched foreign manufacturers and project developers at the expense of Texas taxpayers.

d reid

self

Hamilton, TX

Please do not re-enact Chapter 313 as it relates to "renewable" energy projects. We have enough problems with the electrical grid

Wally Burns

Self, retired engineer

Eddy, TX

313 is providing large tax breaks to companies that would have moved to Texas anyway because of no income tax, business friendly regulations, and until recently a reliable energy grid. At the same time Texas property owners are receiving their highest property taxes ever after the last legislature promised and said that they delivered property tax relief. A better analysis of what jobs will be provided should be conducted because the amount of taxes lost per job gained are often such that it would have been better to just give the money directly to the workers.

We can no longer provide cheap reliable energy because of the tax breaks given to unreliable foreign owned solar and wind energy companies. These are the only companies that have to be listed in 313 provisions because they do not meet any of the criteria, especially with the 10-year depreciation for solar. They destroy farmland, hurt our natural gas business, and cost jobs (tenant farmers and companies that service farming). They get enough Federal tax breaks and do not need any more from the State of Texas. They should pay their full taxes and provide some relief to the property owner.

Samuel Nizi

Individual

Manor, TX

My name is Samuel Nizi, and I am a member of the community in Austin, Texas. I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it costs public education over \$1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes, corporations keep, the State of Texas has to pay another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure, and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). So when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children, and provide the mental health support our students need, we must adequately fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Sincerely,
Samuel Nizi

Mary Janecek-Friedman

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Mary Janecek-Friedman

Don Gentz, Mr.

Self, retired

Port Aransas, TX

Corporations benefit from an educated workforce. They should pay their share of taxes going to public education.

Enrique Saenz

Central Texas Interfaith

Austin, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing Texas public education over 1 billion dollars in funding every year. For every dollar of school property taxes that these corporations keep, our children's education is short changed and the state must put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for public education.

At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep qualified teachers, assure safety for our children and support them,,we must properly fund our education system, not give welfare to wealthy corporations from around the world.

Sandra Woodall

Every Texan

San Antonio, TX

I pay my share of state and local property taxes, but the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe in my community. This results in underfunding for local public schools and ordinary Texans worrying about losing their homes due to inability to pay the ever-increasing school taxes. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to all of us. Chapter 313 favors the wealthiest corporations over hardworking Texans, and it's wrong. I am calling on Texas legislators to make the right choice and stop - or make major changes to - Chapter 313.

Wayne Stalsworth, Mr

Self

Seguin, TX

Make ALL companies pay their fair share!!!

Paul Colbert
Self, consultant
Houston, TX

As the former public education budget chair, I never saw a program remotely as wasteful and without public purpose as the Chapter 313 program. A classic example would be the 313 agreements in Barbers Hill ISD, which have granted tremendous tax breaks to petroleum storage in salt domes. Those storage facilities are there because of the salt dome geology and would have been located there regardless of the breaks, which have cost Texas taxpayers many millions of dollars. The superintendent, in the meanwhile, has made a fortune advising other districts how to similarly soak taxpayers at state expense. Any true cost/benefit analysis of this program would show how little gain -- in either jobs or state revenues -- most of these projects have really produced, particularly after a true analysis of whether the tax break really caused the project to be located in Texas. Even when the break has been a factor, all too often it has merely helped one Texas location win out over another, with no net benefit to the state and its taxpayers. Sunset was the appropriate end of this program, but it should have been accompanied by an immediate shutting of the door, rather than the rush to file that has resulted. If any legislation is passed in the coming session, it should be to eliminate any tax benefits for projects not already under construction as of the sunset of the program.

Craig Campbell
self retired
Austin, TX

Let us have an even playing field with everybody paying their fair share to support our schools and infrastructure. Invest in the future of our people and not rich people who don't live in Texas or sometimes even in America.

Terry Kosobud
retired grandparent of a child in a Texas public school
Austin, TX

Bringing back Chapter 313 or any other action that reduces school property taxes for big corporations is highly objectionable. Chapter 313 died because it was costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas must put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools. Because Texas has qualified workers, education, infrastructure and abundant natural resources is why corporations locate here. At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Vance Ginn, Dr.
Self, Economist
Round Rock, TX

Chapter 313 agreements must remain dead.

The 87th Texas Legislature did a tremendous feat by not extending these handouts of taxpayer dollars by politicians to specific companies in 2021. That means that Ch. 313 agreements are set to expire in December 2022. However, there are politicians and businesses crying about this because it gives them less to write home about and try to get reelected while taxpayers pay for this cost, as there's no free lunch and no free Ch. 313 deals. "Capitalism is the best path to prosperity," as my former colleague Larry Kudlow at the White House used to say. We should remember that we want Texas to be a bastion of hope and prosperity for the

world that comes from capitalism, not extractive institutions in socialism that Ch. 313 and similar deals smell too similar.

Recommendation related to Ch. 313: Don't extend Ch. 313 after it expires in December 2022 in any form because they are not a role of government, distort market activity, and will be obsolete when school district M&O property taxes are finally eliminated.

For more on this, please read my newsletter: <https://vanceginn.substack.com/p/8de5ccc2-5ada-434e-9288-6385dc4b24c0>.

Sheila Mayfield

self

Houston, TX

Please protect Texas farmland from being used for taxpayer-subsidized, short-lived, and wasteful solar-panel fields. This technology simply does not provide enough good for the community to warrant the amount of bad that is suffered through the solar panel life-cycle (including of course, the proper disposal of all panels and equipment after product usefulness is complete).

HASHMATULLAH YAQUBY

US citizen, Austin residence, and responsible parent.

AUSTIN, TX

My name is Hashmatullah Yaquby and I am a parent

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

If the government cannot support free private schools or free homeschooling, then they don't have the right to band the fund for the charter schools.

Hashmatullah Yaquby

Sajeda Yaquby

Parent

Austin, TX

My name is Sajeda Yaquby and I am a parent

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

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schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

If the government cannot support free private schools or free homeschooling, then they don't have the right to band the fund for the charter schools.

Hashmatullah Yaquby

Habiba Nawabi

Austin resident

Austin, TX

My name is Habiba Nawabi and I am a parent

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

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If the government cannot support free private schools or free homeschooling, then they don't have the right to band the fund for the charter schools.

Hashmatullah Yaquby

Ahmad Kiomarz, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Ahmad Kiomarz and I am a US citizen, Austin resident, and responsible parent

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

If the government cannot support free private schools or free homeschooling, then they don't have the right to band the fund for the charter schools.

Your name: Ahmad kiomarz

tyree white

self

temple, TX

Dear Legislature of Texas,

I would like to encourage NOT supporting Big Solar, for Tax Abatement. The solar takes up to much land, that the U.S. needs for food production.

Sylvia Coulson

none

Waxahachie, TX

Chapter 313 is a terrible way to do business. Texas suffered last year during the freeze just because of 313 abatements for wind and solar which could not keep up. Instead. we need to allow the free market to provide for our needs and the state needs to get out of the picking winners and losers.

END 313

Also let people choose the Chief appraiser, but the taxing entities which benefit from high appraisals.

Sharon Tryon, Mrs

Self

Waxahachie, TX

This bill needs to expire and encourage local governments to compete for business by cutting taxes and red tape rather than picking winners or losers. It is government welfare program that only taxes the people more to throw us into poverty. You were never elected to do this!! More government over reach!!

Sharon Tryon

Minerva Camarena Skeith, Rev.

Central Texas Interfaith

Austin, TX

My name is Mother Minerva Camarena Skeith, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, and a leader with Central Texas Interfaith. I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. The legislature decided to end Chapter 313 after Republican and Democrat legislators decided that Chapter 313 was not good for Texas schools nor Texans. One main reason was the cost to public education - over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

Corporations do not move to Texas because of tax breaks. They relocate here because of the quality of our workers, institutions of higher learning, infrastructure, and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety of our children, and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Mother Minerva

Robert Fleming

Tx farm Bureau

Troy, TX

In my 3 years of research on solar leasing on agriculture land, and attending multiple school board meeting please consider banning the 313 tax abatements to schools from renewable energy! These companies are runing the great state of Texas by separating freinds family neighborhoods in dispute on the many implications of Solar development! It is very sad the way 313 is devolved that school districts obtain much more money with accepting the abatement than WITHOUT! The 313 is being abused tremendously! My number is 2547602481 please let's have a discussion!

Thanks
Robert Fleming

Lionel Dyck

self

Cedar Park, TX

Please just let it die. We don't need any governmental unit picking favorites - if the market won't support something then perhaps it shouldn't exist.

Jessica Karlsruher, Executive Director

TREAD Coalition

Austin, TX

On behalf of the TREAD Coalition Board of Directors, TREAD membership, and many residents of rural Texas, I request that renewable energy companies be excluded from the benefit of 313 waivers. These waivers are being issued to construct solar and wind installations when they are not local economic drivers. The construction of renewable energy installations provides temporary jobs but for the lifecycle of the project it might require two people to oversee the day-to-day operations. This oversight might cover up to six counties. There are no local profits, and, in most cases, the energy generated from an installation doesn't service the community that issued the waiver.

Let me paint a picture – you are looking out over a majestic 10,000 acres of land, ripe for farming or ranching, picturesque views, the fiber, and wildlife abundant...a renewable energy corporation gets approval for a solar installation, so it clears the vegetation, leveling the topsoil and killing every living thing on those 10,000 acres to erect solar panels and surrounds the installation with a fence. Renewable energy projects are not only lacking economic drivers in communities, but they also potentially lead to irrevocable environmental impact on rich farm and ranch land. And what about the financial and economic incentives for farmers, ranchers, crop dusters and other agricultural providers?

Renewable energy companies already have tax breaks provided to them by the federal government and other avenues so there is no need to provide additional incentive. In rural communities, there is demand for broadband, emergency, and hospital services among other needs for rural residents. TREAD Coalition is supportive of 313 incentives helping communities grow and thrive with jobs and services that enhance those communities.

To be clear, TREAD Coalition is pro private property rights and pro industry, but we are also pro process, pro jobs, and pro Texas. TREAD Coalition asks you to exclude renewable energy from future consideration of benefiting from 313 waivers. TREAD Coalition sees a clear path for energy integration in Texas without sacrificing land, jobs, and the need for reliable energy. We look forward to working with the legislature on those solutions.

Laura Haygood

self/retired teacher

Wimberley, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools. Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools and teacher retirement, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Marc Haygood
self/retired teacher
Wimberley, TX

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools. Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools and TRS, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Linda Welsh
Self
Bastrop, TX

I pay my share of state and local property taxes, but the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe in my community. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to all of us. Chapter 313 favors the wealthiest corporations over hardworking Texans, and it's wrong. I am calling on Texas legislators to make the right choice and stop Chapter 313 and all wasteful tax giveaways.

Jenny Magic
self; marketing consultant
Austin, TX

There is no reason that major corporations should get away with not contributing to the communities their company operates and where their employees live. If you say you want to offer property tax relief, start by replacing funds from the pockets of wealthy corporations! Chapter 313 and other wasteful tax giveaways have to go - hard-working Texans deserve better.

Marlene Lobberecht
self
Houston, TX

Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to all of us. Chapter 313 favors the wealthiest corporations over hardworking Texans, and it's wrong. I am calling on Texas legislators to make the right choice and stop Chapter 313 and all wasteful tax giveaways.

Richard Ribb
Central Texas Interfaith
Austin, TX

My name is Richard Ribb, PhD, and I am a leader with Central Texas Interfaith. I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of sales tax to pay for our public schools. Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.
Richard Ribb

Nathan Jensen
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I'm a professor at the University of Texas at Austin. I have published peer-reviewed research on Chapter 313 that found the majority of companies utilizing the program would have invested even without this incentive. Many of these companies had started building prior to receiving incentives. This concern was documented in the 2016 Senate Natural Resource and Economic Development Report (Charge 3).

Many features of Chapter 313 were highly problematic, including the almost automatic authorization of these incentives by school districts and the Comptroller. But the fundamental problem, in my opinion, is that these were largely incentives targeted at energy investments that have limited geographic options for investment. These companies are likely to invest in Texas even without 313 and thus 313 is a transfer of money from Texas taxpayers to large companies. You can try to "fix" the program with stronger wage standards, but this doesn't address the fundamental program. Many of these companies were coming even without Chapter 313.

The consequences of a program like Chapter 313 isn't only the unfairness of small businesses paying their full share of taxes while some very large investments receive incentives. The key is if many of these companies were coming even without incentives, Texas is losing badly needed tax revenues. These tax revenues could be used for services, or to reduce the tax burden on all taxpayers.

Proponents often claim that these programs are "free". Claims of a "free lunch" should always raise an alarm. Many states directly evaluate their incentive programs, asking this exact question and consistently find that these programs do not pay for themselves. To my knowledge, the state hasn't performed any evaluation of this program that was in existence for decades.

Chapter 313 wasn't reauthorized due to both Democrats and Republican concerns about the program. Hastily recreating a problematic incentive program would cost Texas taxpayers billions of dollars.

Susan Spruce
Central Texas Interfaith
Austin, TX

My name is Susan Spruce and I am a leader with Central Texas Interfaith.

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

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Our priority must be quality education for our children. This will provide a better workforce and citizens to benefit all Texans.
Susan Spruce

Cyrus Reed, Dr
Sierra Club, Lone Star Chapter
Austin, TX

September 8th, 2022

To: Chairman Morgan Meyer
Vice-Chair Shawn Thierry
Members, House Committee on Ways and Means

From: Cyrus Reed, Conservation Director, Lone Star Chapter, cyrus.reed@sierraclub.org

Invest in Infrastructure and Good Jobs, not Property Tax Relief that Hurts School Funding and Pits Communities against Each Other: End 313

During the 87th Legislative Support, there was not sufficient legislative support to continue the Chapter 313 program, which offers major cuts on school property taxes to certain power plants and manufacturing plants in return for promises of investments and jobs. While the program at times has been successful in promoting the development of renewable energy and certain manufacturing facilities, the Sierra Club is in favor of ending the program.

First, school finance is impacted. Even though the individual school district offering the tax break may benefit with a make whole payment and a donation from the individual enterprise, the state as a whole suffers as funding that would have supported all school districts is instead funneled to an individual school district. This is not equitable to the state and pits individual school districts – rural and suburban and urban - tax rich and tax poor – against one another.

Second, the rules surrounding Chapter 313 have largely removed the public voice. Information is difficult to find, notice is imperfect and by the time the public has a chance to voice their support, concerns or opposition, the decision is already pre-cooked. If Texas were to continue 313 agreements, then much better public participation and notice rules must be enacted, as well as more robust investigation and accountability.

Third, the promised investment and jobs frequently has not materialized as promised in the initial applications, meaning the industry receives favorable tax treatment, but the community doesn't receive the benefits.

In addition, to attract these industries, local communities must frequently invest in local water, electric and transportation infrastructure that creates expenses for the local communities. .

Finally, and most importantly, some of these industries come with externalities - water use, pollution and waste. Even as the industry is offered favorable tax treatment and at times a beneficial payment to the school district, local communities - often frontline environmental justice communities – are burdened with more pollution.

Speaking frankly, wind and solar companies will invest in West Texas because the resource is good, and LNG Companies and Refineries will invest along the coast because – it's a coast and Texas has gas and oil. It's not the tax breaks that attract them, it's the resources.

While Sierra Club supports ending the 313 Tax agreements, if they are continued we would support continuing them for all industry, including renewable energy and storage companies.

Continue in Part 2

Cyrus Reed, Dr
Sierra Club, Lone Star Chapter
Austin, TX

Note - PART 2 of our comments.

While Sierra Club supports ending the 313 Tax agreements, if they are continued we would support continuing them for all industry, including renewable energy and storage companies.

However, rather than tax breaks, we think it makes more sense for the state to invest in its future, which will attract more industry. First, invest in our schools, community colleges and universities to attract leading industries, including hydrogen, renewable, storage, high tech, pollution control equipment, electric vehicle manufacturers, geothermal technologies and heat pumps, and other industries representing the transition to a clean economy.

Second, utilize funding from the IIJA (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) to make our electric grid more resilient through transmission upgrades, create hydrogen hubs, create multi-modal transportation – including a vast EV-charging infrastructure, and be a leader on low-carbon industry development. Funding to continue to develop our water infrastructure - again partially using funds from the IIJA – through the Texas Water Development Board. Supplemental funding from the state should also be used to invest in flood infrastructure funding, and community resiliency.

Third, prioritize worker training programs. We believe the state should use either state funds or take advantage of unique funding under the IIJA and recently approved IRA of 2022 to create unique programs that work for workers, especially those transitioning from traditional employment in the oil and gas industry, the coal industry and heavy manufacturing to new types of industry. Last legislative session, Rep. Gina Hinojosa and Senator “Chuy” Hinojosa introduced legislation (HB 3878 and SB 955) - Relating to economic development and workforce retraining opportunities in the transition to the use of clean energy sources - that would have created a worker transition training program and advisory committee. Investing in new industries and particularly workers could be beneficial to all Texans, and the IRA and IIJA also offer monies for worker transition programs.

Rather than offering carrots to attract industry, and pit industries and communities against one another, Texas should invest in the 21st century, and create a leading multi-modal transportation system, a resilient electric grid, sustainable water solution and worker training programs. Denuding our school funding is not helpful to anyone.

Eduardo Anaya
Valley Interfaith - Rio Grande Valley
Pharr, TX

My name is Eduardo Anaya and I am a leader with Valley Interfaith. I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar

of sales tax to pay for our public schools.

Corporations don't come here because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). At a time when school districts are struggling to attract and keep teachers, assure the safety our children and provide the mental health support our students need, we must properly fund our schools, not give welfare to some of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

Eduardo Anaya

Charla Bean

Self- Retired Educational Diagnostician and current Farmer/Rancher

Blanket, TX

My name is Charla Bean, I live in Comanche county. Our 640 acre ranch is surrounded on 3 sides by Logan Gap Wind. This company did not employ the number of people it promised each local school district involved in their 313 agreements. Local school taxes have not been reduced for taxpayers. No new local businesses have been created to support the wind farm- Fed Ex delivers their supplies. They purchased fleet vehicles from the DFW metroplex, rather than purchasing from Comanche GMC or Ford dealerships. Repairs and some routine maintenance are completed by out of area/state crews. These crews stay in Brown county hotels nearby rather than supporting Comanche hotels and/or restaurants.

I ask that you please eliminate the Chapter 313 option which allows renewables such as wind farms to get rich off of local taxpayers while not providing promised benefits. This wind farm now belongs to a foreign country, I do not believe it is fair for American tax dollars to support such enterprises.

Thank you for reading a very small portion of my beliefs toward Chapter 313.

Charla Bean

Haroon Abassy, Truck Driver

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Haroon Abassy and I am a US citizen, Austin resident, and responsible parent

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

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If the government cannot support free private schools or free homeschooling, then they don't have the right to band the fund for the charter schools.

Your name:

Abeda Abassy, House wife

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Abeda Abassy and I am a US citizen, Austin resident, and responsible parent

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

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If the government cannot support free private schools or free homeschooling, then they don't have the right to band the fund for the charter schools.

Your name:

Muneer Arghandiwal, 313

313

Austin, TX

H

Muneer Arghandiwal

313

Austin, TX

My name is .muneer..... and I am a US citizen, Austin resident, and responsible parent

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

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If the government cannot support free private schools or free homeschooling, then they don't have the right to band the fund for the charter schools.

Your name:

Michelle Helmers

Self

Leander, TX

I and my neighbors in Leander pay our share of state and local property taxes, but the corporations do not pay what they owe in my community. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to all of us. Chapter 313 favors the wealthiest corporations over hardworking Texans, and it's wrong. I am calling on Texas legislators to do what's right for our communities and stop Chapter 313 and all wasteful tax giveaways.

Nancy Kasten, Rabbi

Self, faith leader

Dallas, TX

I pay state and local property taxes, while corporations do not pay what they owe in my community. Corporations should be investing in our schools, not bankrupting them. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to all of us. Chapter 313 favors corporations over hardworking Texans, and the lack of investment in education hurts us all. I am calling on Texas legislators to make the right choice and stop Chapter 313 and all wasteful tax giveaways.

Chloe Latham Sikes, Dr.

IDRA (Intercultural Development Research Association)

Austin, TX

Dear Chairman Meyer and Committee Members:

Texas public schools depend on the finance system that is funded by both local tax revenue and state funding. In its ideal form, this allows for funding equity between high- and low-property wealth districts to equitably fund public education according to their students' needs and the capacity of the surrounding community, with additional support from the state. We have never reached that ideal for many reasons, and reinstating Chapter 313 exemptions would only further strain state revenue streams for public schools. Texas's public schools educate students pre-K through 12th grade, prepare students to enter our workforce and participate in our society, and provide essential health, wellness and safety services to our communities. To fund Texas's public schools, which serve over 5.4 million students, large tax exemption programs such as those offered through Chapter 313 should remain expired.

Instead of considering tax cuts and exemptions, the state can support sustainable state revenue sources that are progressive in nature, such as reducing tax exemptions for businesses and eliminating property tax cuts to large commercial properties. This would capture the growing economic power of Texas to help fund the institutions and services we rely on, such as quality public schools.

IDRA is an independent, non-partisan, education non-profit committed to achieving equal educational opportunity for every child through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college. For more information, please contact Chloe Latham Sikes, Ph.D., IDRA Deputy Director of Policy, at chloe.sikes@idra.org.

Joe Higgs

Valley Interfaith Leadership

Mercedes, TX

Valley Interfaith opposes resurrecting any corporate incentive program which uses school property taxes. If the State of Texas feels it is necessary to create an incentive program, it should be a program that is that is in the budget, has clear qualifying criteria and benchmarks. Chapter 313 has proven to be a cash cow for a cottage industry of lawyers and school finance experts and big corporations who are planning to locate in Texas already.

We oppose any new program that essentially resurrects Chapter 313 because:

It's expensive—Corporations are now receiving over \$1 Billion in school property tax breaks every year through these deals. It hurts public education—every dollar of school property taxes that a corporation doesn't pay is a dollar that does not go to fund public schools—funds that could be used to increase the number of teachers and teacher pay; improve school safety and mental health for students. We need to end corporate tax breaks that use school property taxes in order to properly fund our schools. Less local property tax revenue means more sales taxes are needed— Public schools in Texas are paid for by both local school property taxes and by State of Texas tax revenue—mostly sales tax. When corporations don't pay their fair share, the State has to use more sales tax revenue to fully fund public education. As a result, YOU are subsidizing tax breaks for Tesla Motors, Exxon Mobile, Samsung and other Fortune 500 companies.

Most tax breaks are not needed: Chapter 313 was created in 2001 to offer a school property tax break to encourage big businesses to relocate to Texas. Recent studies by Nate Jensen of University of Texas and other scholars indicate that that at least 80% of these companies would come to Texas without the tax breaks. Companies don't come to Texas because of tax breaks. They locate here because of qualified workers, education, infrastructure and our abundant natural resources (oil, gas, coastline, sun, wind). Some Corporations are like "Hogs at the Trough": Chapter 313 will end December 31, 2022. In a normal year, about 80 to 90 corporations ask for Chapter 313 tax breaks. In 2022, corporations have asked for over 400 tax breaks for projects that could cost us billions more in school property taxes each year. For example, Samsung is asking for 9 tax breaks for projects they may build through 2045. Chenier is asking for tax breaks on liquified natural gas projects they may build in 2038 and 2042. School districts which offer these deals get "contributions" from the corporations: About 5% of Texas school districts are granting these tax breaks. Corporations can pay school districts \$100 per student as an incentive (Payment in Lieu of Taxation) to accept these deals. Those 5% of school districts are getting as much as \$30 million each year in corporate payments while the 95% of school districts would be better off if the school property taxes they are forgiving were used to increase the per pupil funding.

Jose Lopez, VIF
Valley Interfaith
mcAllen, TX

Why give tax money to rich companies? When we can use that for schools.

Tom Nobis, Mr.
self
Houstno, TX

Please leave chapter 313 sunset and do not bring it back. This program allows school districts to offer tax breaks that we residents of Texas have to pay. The amount of tax break is made up by the state of Texas with our tax dollars. The school district has no skin in the game and should not be offering economic incentives to corporations. Cities and Counties have a chapter 312 but they have skin in the game.

Cheryl Stalinsky
North Fort Bend Conservatives
Weston Lakes, TX

Do not renew Chapter 313, please

Susan Pantell
N/A
Austin, TX

I oppose the Chapter 313 tax program. It allows large corporations to pay only a fraction of what they owe to support our schools. Prioritizing the wealthiest corporations over our children and educators leaves public schools unable to meet basic education standards like low student-teacher ratios, safe and healthy facilities, and experienced educators. Please put an end to the Chapter 313 tax policy.

Brian Schill

self

San Antonio, TX

Chapter 313 has been a huge favor to corporations and other businesses at the expense of the rest of Texas taxpayers and to the funds for education and other important local needs. These businesses need to pay their share, period, which would be assessed at the same rate as other property owners like myself and the other homeowners in my city of San Antonio and across the state. To do otherwise is a travesty of justice, and a failure to support the needs of Texas schools, counties and cities. Scratch 313 and replace it with affirmative legislation that mandates fair share taxation as I have described.

Carlos Ortega, Mr.

self

El Paso, TX

I implore you to rethink your decision on this matter. Cutting funds from our public schools will not hurt you but it will hurt our young students. How can anyone expect students to achieve without the resources necessary? The corporate world is not hurt if they must pay taxes. they can do it and it is only ethical that you tell them so. With all the talk about how we must prepare our students for the future, then it only makes sense that your committee do the right thing.

Thank you for allowing me this space.

Sandra Crocker

self

San Antonio, TX

DO NOT BRING BACK 313

Daniel Bernal

Self sales

Fairview, TX

Do NOT bring this Back

Stephanie Cox

Myself, business owner

Conroe, TX

DO NOT BRING BACK CH 313! The people have already spoken on this.

Mohammad Mansoor Nishat

Austin

Maxwell, TX

My name isMansoor Nishat ... and I am a US citizen, Austin resident, and responsible parent

I oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313 or any other scheme that reduces school property taxes for big corporations. Chapter 313 died because it is costing public education over \$ 1 Billion in potential funding each year. For every dollar of school property taxes that corporations keep, the State of Texas has to put up another dollar of state taxes to pay for our public schools.

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If the government cannot support free private schools or free homeschooling, then they don't have the right to band the fund for the charter schools.

Your name: Mansoor Nishat

Mark Pollack, Mr.

Self

Richardson, TX

I pay my share of state and local property taxes, but the wealthiest corporations do not pay what they owe in my community. Texans of all backgrounds value fairness and Chapter 313 is nothing but unfair to all of us. In times where public school funding is desperately needed to make up for learning loss during the pandemic those dollars are even more important, especially since the companies will eventually need educated adults to work for them. Chapter 313 favors the wealthiest corporations over hardworking Texans, and it's wrong. I am calling on Texas legislators to make the right choice and stop Chapter 313 and all wasteful tax giveaways.

Susan Lippman

Individual

Austin, TX

I am writing to oppose legislation to bring back Chapter 313. Chapter 313 is expensive --public schools are hurting for funds to increase the number of teachers and their pay, and to improve mental health services for students and school safety. Just to keep up with inflation, school districts need another \$1000 per child. Yet Chapter 313 transfers over \$1 Billion a year in school property tax breaks to private corporations.

The rationale is to encourage big businesses to come to Texas. This rationale must hold up to scrutiny--however studies out of the University of Texas and other studies show that 80% of the companies would come to Texas anyway. Of course they assert that they would not come otherwise, but we do not require them to show that they have a better offer in another state. This powerfully alters the cost-benefit ratio. Whether it is property taxes or sales taxes going to the schools, any unwarranted giveaway to private corporations hurts the bottom line of our schools. A rush of tax-break projects have been applied for in 2022: 400 as compared to usually about 80 or 90 of them. Some of them would lock in tax breaks though 2038 or even 2045. We should not burden our schools with this.

The benefits to employment is very thin: Corporations are only required to create 10 new jobs that pay 10% over the average pay in the area. Mostly, these jobs cost over \$1 million dollars each in lost property taxes. There are much more cost-effective ways to invest to create new, well-paying jobs. Another problem is that about 5% of school districts grant these breaks, and Corporations can pay school districts \$100 per student as an incentive to accept these deals. Those 5% of school districts are getting as much as \$30 million each year in corporate payments while the 95% of school districts would be better off if the school property taxes they are forgiving were used to increase the per pupil funding of ALL Texas schools. Those districts are getting as much as \$30 million each year in corporate payments. The other 95% of districts would be better off if the school property taxes were used to increase the per pupil funding across Texas.

The 313 scheme is much more cost-effective for corporations who would mostly come to Texas anyway. The cost of this should not fall on the backs of our students. I ask you to prioritize our public school system.

Thank you for your consideration of these thoughts.

Dennis Borel, Executive Director
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Austin, TX

Chairman and Members,

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) is a statewide, cross-disability advocacy organization with members in all legislative districts. People with disabilities are the demographic group generally considered to have the lowest income, highest unemployment rate, lowest ownership of a home or vehicle and are more likely to die prematurely, not from disability rather from substandard access to health care. Texas ranks 49th of the states in providing community services for its citizens with disabilities. The community attendant workforce, a cost-effective service delivery mechanism, is facing collapse as Medicaid is unable to match, or even come close, to market wages from competing jobs. The Medicaid waiver interest list is up to 16 years or more long. These facts point to serious underfunding. Because 313 tax breaks are replaced with state funds, there is a correlation between available state funds for other needs. Chapter 313 should not be revived.

Elizabeth Schlechter
Self
Austin, TX

The time has come to end 313. This provision gives corporations a break at the expense of regular citizens . Please end this unfair tax law.

Tannya Benavides
Commission Shift
Laredo, TX

First and foremost, we appreciate the opportunity for folks to submit written electronic public comments on this important matter. I am writing to you today, the House Ways & Means Committee, as the Advocacy Director of Commission Shift-- a statewide nonpartisan nonprofit-- to communicate our disapproval of the Chapter 313 program.

The effectiveness and need for the continuation of Chapter 313 has been put into question before, and rightfully so, as it has become a matter of who seeks to benefit from the tax cuts provided. Is it Texans? Our public schools? Or big corporations?

We are concerned about the way corporations like Occidental Petroleum are abusing tax abatements through Ch. 313 in Kleberg and Ector County for their carbon capture initiatives. Using programs such as Ch. 313 makes it so that these costly-- and not yet proven-- technologies like carbon capture & sequestration, ultimately fall on us as taxpayers to fund while corporations are the only ones that stand to gain.

Meanwhile, with no state income taxes, us Texans highly depend on these very property taxes to fund our public schools. If we allow Ch. 313 to continue (or a different version of the same program) we are making way for corporations like Oxy to get out of paying their fair share of taxes that are due to our schools with no guarantee that the communities these corporations are coming in to will stand to benefit from their ventures.

Furthermore, another major concern with the nature of Ch. 313 is how it allows companies to lowball their own valuations, making them responsible for a fraction of what school taxes they would actually pay if their appraisals were a true reflection of their property values. We have seen this play out in the 1PointFive (Oxy's subsidiary) applications where initial limited values are listed at \$100 million, but then subsequent applications would have them pay out at a value of \$30 million, some even as low as \$5 million.

The ease with which corporations can seek tax abatements through Ch. 313, the lack of evidence that Ch. 313 programs are effective in bringing jobs & investment of value to our local communities, and the way schools are continuously cheated out of property taxes that would otherwise be fairly paid, are all reasons why this program should be ended. Thank you.

Amy Moore, Rev

self / pastor

Dallas, TX

By way of paying my share of state and local property taxes, I support our public school system. I do not have children in school, however, it is imperative to invest in our community and that starts with education. Corporations, on the the others hand, who draw from the community are spared from communal participation by not having to pay their full share of property taxes. Corporations should be investing in our schools, not bankrupting them through breaks offered by Chapter 313. I don't want a tax break. What I want is for corporations to pay their due as I do and invest in the education of our children for the sake of building up our communities. I am calling on Texas legislators to make the right choice and stop wasteful tax giveaways of Chapter 313.

Diann Andy

Self

San Antonio, TX

I and my husband are retired. I was a teacher and school administrator. He was a programmer for University Hospital and Wells Fargo. We've always paid our taxes knowing that they benefit our community and further American values. We don't think I terms of "profit" for shareholders, although we do own some stocks. We strongly believe that corporations should also value paying taxes to benefit their communities and all Americans. For this reason, we ask that you require corporations that operate in Texas to pay at least the same percentage of their income that we do. They need to be good citizens, too.

Wallis Goodman

self (teacher)

Austin, TX

Please do NOT restore this chapter. Keep the money for schools. Do you not understand what a critical thing it is to fund schools . . . and that schools in Texas are already underfunded? Please, please. Take away more funding and find out how much harder we can make it to hire good teachers. And just imagine how much the quality of teachers matters to . . . everything!

COMMENTS FOR: Chapter 313.

Darlene Rubio

Self - Senior Citizen

Friendswood, TX

Stop Chapter 313.
