

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Ways & Means
For HB 5

Compiled on: Monday, April 10, 2023 10:58 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: April 10, 2023 10:00 AM

Ellen Sloan
self, tutor
Plano, TX

I oppose HB5. Public schools need more funding.

Eric Mata
Texas Organizing Project
Dallas, TX

As a concerned citizen, I must express my strong opposition to TX HB 5, which aims to create a tax giveaway program to subsidize wealthy corporations at the expense of our schools and children. This proposed bill represents a misguided approach to job creation and revenue generation that favors giant corporations over the well-being of our community.

Instead of providing much-needed support for our schools and investing in the education and future of our children, TX HB 5 would allow corporations to pay only a fraction of their fair share to support our schools. This is an unacceptable prioritization of corporate interests over the needs of our community.

It is essential to recognize that our schools are the foundation of our society and the key to our future prosperity. Our children's and our community's success depends on a strong, well-funded, and adequately supported education system.

By diverting resources away from our schools and into the pockets of wealthy corporations, TX HB 5 would only exacerbate existing inequities and undermine our efforts to build a better future for all Texans.

It is time for our elected officials to focus on the real needs of our community rather than catering to the interests of powerful corporations. I urge lawmakers to reject TX HB 5 and prioritize investments in our schools and children. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations to build a brighter future for all Texans, not just the wealthy few.

Jose Vasquez, TSGT (ret)
self
El Paso, TX

My name is Jose Vasquez and I am a Texan asking you to vote NO on HB5 by Hunter and similar corporate subsidies. It's overdue for corporations to pay their fair contribution to make Texas better for everyone, no exceptions. Please stop favoring giant corporations over our schools and our children, and oppose HB 5.

Laureen Harris

self, retired

Irving, TX

Our kids need a good education in our public schools. It's time corporations paid their fare share. Please oppose HB5.

Cyral Miller

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote against any more tax giveaways to corporations and concentrate state support on the students, the teachers and the important educational staff that make our schools run. No more tax breaks for companies! Thank you for putting kids first!

Robert Partain

Self, business owner

Katy, TX

This seems an awful lot like Chapter 313. I request that school boards be in the business of educating children and not recruiting companies. Renewable energy should be excluded. These do not create long term jobs and school boards have been allowed to waive the job requirements. This must end. If solar is allowed to participate, it must not be allowed to occupy any land receiving agricultural exemptions in the past 5 years.

Ron Pack

Tread, Agriculture, Self

Hico, TX

Texas Agriculture properties are being destroyed at a alarming rate by large footprint industrial Solar facilities. These industries already enjoy National subsidies why would Texas give them additional corporate welfare paid by taxpayers. Please include “ No renewables “ in HB5. Take this advice from a ranch owner that has 15 years of negative experience with these industries. This will be the largest permanent destruction of agricultural properties in our entire history.. Texas deserves better !!

Andrew Eller

Self

Temple, TX

I am against this bill. It places taxpayers on the hook for money to fund companies that would otherwise expand or come to Texas even without this incentive. We have no business giving these types of incentives. All this does is increase individual taxes while allowing companies to pay less taxes.

Jordan Robinson, President & CEO

Round Rock Chamber

Round Rock, TX

On behalf of the Round Rock Chamber and its 850 business and community leaders, it is one of our top priorities this legislative session to ensure Texas remains a competitive location for company relocations or expansions through the creation of a new, modernized economic development tool.

Competition for large, capital-intensive projects across the country is steeper than ever, which is why an effective and competitive incentive program is crucial to attracting jobs and investments that will secure the next wave of projects across multiple sectors including manufacturing, national security and energy production.

As evidenced by the massive investments from corporations like Samsung, Tesla, Toyota, Texas Instruments, and others, these deals not only bring dollars and jobs, but entire ecosystems (supply chains and associated vendors) to our communities. To remain competitive, we urge you to support HB 5 as the new, modern, transparent, and accountable tool for Texas' economic development.

Angie Yowell
self, fundraiser
Austin, TX

Our public school teachers and staff are criminally underpaid, fewer investments are made in K-12 educational infrastructure, and our students suffer for it. Please don't make it worse in order to help corporations make even higher record profits. Shareholders and C-suite executives have plenty already. Our students need that funding more - for their sake and the future of the state of Texas.

David Hogan
Central Texas Zero Waste Alliance
Austin, TX

I oppose taking money from public education to subsidize polluters that don't follow the law and that cause health problems for Texans young and old.

Jason Perez
self / circuit designer
Austin, TX

Hello. Responsible legislation would not allow corporate subsidies of nearly \$1 million for each job created. Nor would they discriminate against renewable energy which is a key industry in Texas and for our future. I oppose taking money from public education to subsidize polluters that don't follow the law and that cause health problems for Texans young and old.

I hope you will block any measures to renew big tax breaks for bad actors. I am aware the program known recently as Chapter 313 might be revived this session in the State Legislature. Please vote against any bills including Senate Bill 1926 and House Bill 5 that would extend massive tax abatements to corporations, especially those that are polluting our communities.

Most of the money goes out of state, according to the Texas Comptroller. Texas schools need the funding more than these giant corporations.

This creates an unlevel playing field because certain companies can hire lawyers and get tax breaks but most businesses in Texas will never qualify. Chapter 313 deserved to die and its revival will harm Texas schoolchildren.

Sincerely,
Jason Perez

Carrie Schweitzer
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose taking money from public education to subsidize polluters that don't follow the law and that cause health problems for Texans young and old.

Brian Richardson, Mr.
self / consultant
Houston, TX

Responsible legislation would not allow corporate subsidies of nearly \$1 million for each job created. Nor would they discriminate against renewable energy which is a key industry in Texas and is important for the future of Texans. Voting for this ridiculous bill is NOT beneficial to Texas. Stop! Wake up! Do something right!

Anne Miller

Self

Austin, TX

I am a Texas taxpayer and strongly oppose any effort to revive the Chapter 313 program which has cost us billions of dollars in corporate subsidies. A study in the Corpus Christi area found that industrial facilities were receiving an average of almost a million dollars per job. That is outrageous.

Please do not support HB 5 or SB 1926 or other bills that would divert so much money from Texas public schools. The vast majority of Texas kids go to schools that have lost vital funding due to Chapter 313.

In addition, I oppose any legislation that would allow subsidies to polluting industries and discriminate against cleaner ones.

Hunt McRoberts

Self/Petroleum Landman

Dallas, TX

Responsible legislation would not provide for corporate subsidies of nearly \$1 million for each theoretical job created by polluting businesses. Furthermore, using a legislative cudgel to discriminate against renewable energy, which is a key industry in Texas and critical to our future, is morally indefensible.

Carol Lowe, Rev.

self

Corpus Christi, TX

We have way too much pollution in Corpus Christi. Stop giving money to polluters. Please allocate more money to our schools. They sure could use it. Thank you!

Hitesh Vashishtha

Self

Allen, TX

I oppose taking money from public education to subsidize polluters that don't follow the law and that cause health problems for Texans young and old. These big corporation rake in profits in billions so they do not need our kids money.

Calvin Johnson, Prof., Chair Holder
University of Teas Law School (for identification only)
Austin, TX

Divided We Fall: Stop the Location Subsidies.

The Colonies came together to fight the Revolutionary War against the most powerful nation on earth under the banner of “United We Stand, Divided We Fall.” For unification, the jealous states required that no state could impose a tax or regulation on an out-of-state American that it was unwilling to impose on its own citizens. That prohibition came over into the Constitution as a part of promoting movement of free commerce across the states.

Location subsidies penalize outsiders and favor local citizens just penalties on outsiders do. The prohibition is of Constitutional dimensions, enforcing fairness among all competitors in our common market. A local government may not put its thumbs on the scales by penalty or subsidy. Location subsidies are inconsistent with the Constitutional principle by which this nation was formed.

Subsidies given to attract a new plant or distribution center to the locality do not increase the jobs or economic productivity in our country, they just move the jobs around. As the subsidies help one location, they simultaneously hurt competing locations by the same amount. There is no longer a level playing field in the competition between localities over commerce.

Gigantic firms set up an auction with one locality bidding against another. Overall, the subsidies just transfer money needed for local schools to some of the richest corporations on earth.

Take the subsidies that Tesla got for locating a plant in Del Valle, Texas. Del Valle is low-income area just outside the Austin airport. Del Valle is not incorporated but it does have a local school district and school taxes.

Tesla was given property tax incentives estimated to be worth \$91.4 million over 10 years for a Tesla plant that would employ 5000 people. Del Valle beat out Tulsa, Oklahoma, the last standing competitor.

Wherever located, the Tesla plant would employ the same 5000 people who would spend the same money. Del Valley denied communities of fellow Texas or of the rest of the country the 5000 jobs. The subsidies were directed against outsiders. Judged from the country as a whole, we, the band of brothers, there was no added benefit. All waste. The transfer was from the school children of Del Valle to the Tesla shareholders.

The largest shareholder of Tesla is Elon Musk, once the richest man on earth. Musk is a reverse Robin Hood, stealing from the poor to take for himself.

The places that gave the incentives of this size are not thinking right. Del Valle was able to give up potential tax revenue because school-finance formulas shifted the loss of forgone revenue to the state. Del Valle school district, the county and the state also did not count the harm to fellow Texans or fellow Americans when it tallied up the cost and benefits. HB 5 would hurt the outsiders –fellow Texans and fellow Americans. United we stand, and still, it is divided that we fall.

Ron Unger
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose taking money from public education to subsidize polluting industries that don't follow the law and that cause health problems for Texans young and old. Responsible legislation would not allow corporate subsidies of nearly \$1 million for each job created. They would not discriminate against renewable energy which is a key industry in Texas and for our future.

Sharyn Reynolds, Rev
myself. retired clergy
Austin, TX

I oppose this legislation and the dishonest way it is presented as being a generator of tax revenue when what it generates is increased pollution and toxicity to our Gulf Coast. I read "The Fishermen and the Dragon" and realize this travesty of subsidizing pollution in Texas has been going unrestricted for way too long. Enough already...put my money into green businesses and sustainable energy activities.

Emma Pabst
Self, non-profit worker
Round Rock, TX

I oppose using public education to subsidize polluters — especially polluters that don't follow the law and that cause health problems for Texans young and old. Support public education — not polluters!

Richie Grant

self, licensed professional counselor
texarkana, TX

I Oppose this bill. It is an unfair business practice. Do not bring back Chapter 13.

Sabrina Blackledge

Self
Austin, TX

HB 5 will not accomplish job creation that result in a net contribution to Texas. It takes money from the real investment in our future, educators, and gives it over as corporate subsidies at the price of \$1 million for each job created. HB 5 will also discriminate against renewable energy which is a key industry in Texas and for our future.

Carol Soph

Citizen
Denton, TX

I am against public tax payers money going to the fossil fuel industry where as, money towards renewable energy will make our state a leader in promoting jobs and driving down the cost of utilities.

Doug Beatty

Self
Bellaire, TX

Responsible legislation would not allow corporate subsidies of nearly \$1 million for each job created. Nor would they discriminate against renewable energy which is a key industry in Texas and for our future.

I oppose taking money from public education to subsidize polluters that don't follow the law and that cause health problems for Texans young and old.

Robin Schneider

Texas Campaign for the Environment
Austin, TX

I was in one of the committee hearings when the Chapter 313 program was being created and its proponents kept bringing up that we were losing companies to Louisiana. That state has significantly tightened its rules for awarding tax breaks because of the tax shortfalls for public education.

Texas can't get every manufacturing plant. One could argue that we have way too many because so many of the Chapter 313 recipients are major polluters. A recent report that showed that the LNG export company Cheniere received an outrageous \$3 million in tax abatements for every job it promised to create in the Coastal Bend which was mostly from Chapter 313 agreements. Cheniere has violated its air pollution limits hundreds of times since it started its operations in 2019. Companies that violate our air pollution laws should not be getting tax abatements. See more at WePayTheyProfit.com

I've heard many legislators say that government should not be picking winners and losers. This program has made a mockery of that idea.

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

Texans with disabilities are a major disadvantaged and underserved population. As arguably the sociodemographic with the lowest income, people with disabilities rely on public programs including public health. The Texas Medicaid program provides both acute care and long term services and supports annually ranks at the bottom of state-funded programs. Waiting lists for services extend up to 16 years and the community attendant direct care workforce is collapsing due to the poverty wages. These situations are in the direct control of the Legislature and should be a priority instead of state funding of large corporations.

Nikhil Batra
Self, Product Manager
Austin, TX

I don't agree with taking money from public education to subsidize polluters that don't follow the law and that cause health problems for Texans young and old."

Sara Munson, Ms
self, retired
Houston, TX

regarding tax breaks for gas and oil companies on the Gulf coast: These companies are not providing a benefit of equal value to the tax breaks they receive. The damage done to the health of Texans in nearby communities and to the environment of the coast far outweighs the provision of jobs, damage persists for years. Texas tax money should not be underwriting the occurrence of asthma and cancer, and the poisoning of wildlife. Do the owners of these companies live on the Gulf coast? Do they experience the consequences?

Claire Krebs
self, lawyer & engineer
Austin, TX

Responsible legislation would not allow corporate subsidies of nearly \$1 million for each job created. Nor would they discriminate against renewable energy which is a key industry in Texas and for our future. Many of the recipients of Chapter 313 subsidies would have located in Texas without the handout. We should not be incentivizing job growth that would come to the state anyway. That's a waste of money. Freeport LNG, received nearly \$6 million in tax abatements for every job they created; and would have located in Texas anyway because of where the gas it is exporting originates. Chapter 313 deserved to die; don't revive it.

Timothy Boykin
self
Plano, TX

It's insane to think that any business would get such a huge tax break for simply doing business. You need people to run the business and do the work, your people pay taxes. So should the companies that profit from their business. Responsible legislation would not allow corporate subsidies of nearly \$1 million for each job created. Nor would they discriminate against renewable energy which is a key industry in Texas and for our future. Y'all have to do better to invest in the economy of our state and support education instead of dishing it to the fossil fuel industry which just had record profits. When will it be enough?

Margaret Duran, Mrs.
Retired Medical Office Administrator
CORP CHRISTI, TX

Please oppose this corporate giveaway. Texas gives millions to big companies that have been polluting and really do not need these subsidies. Our public schools need maintenance and more teachers. We need to look to sustainable solutions and encourage renewable resources and sustainability.
Thank you for your work.

Carrie Meyer
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

No tax breaks for the wealthiest corporations in the country. They need to pay taxes like the rest of us and even more taxes would be good. I don't care how many jobs they create. Their profits are so high they can afford to pay a lot more, not a lot less. They need to pay more because they are polluting the air I breathe in the water I drink.

Joanna Friebele
Self
Dublin, TX

Dear Representatives,

I am opposed to this bill. It is corporate welfare and I believe if companies want to come to the great state of Texas it is because we have opportunity to offer and not our tax breaks. This is a state where they can make money, employ some of the finest people and everyone can prosper. I am 100% against renewables being a part of this bill, critical infrastructure, can mean just about anything, so please define the fact that renewables will not be included should this pass.

Many foreign companies are coming here, just for this handout and the lack of regulations for building renewables - what a scam, then they will leave, tax credits in hand and we are left with a mess to clean up, both with our grid and our land. Renewables are a worthless product and as all worthless products will soon be tossed aside for the next best thing. I just heard that the overall global efficiency of solar is 14%, so let's look at nuclear at 89%. Bring jobs to our economy if you must have this bill and that is not this "green" energy which only employs 1-2 per full time jobs per facility. Last time I looked at the EIA information there are 185 facilities operating in Texas (wind & solar) - that's at the very best 370 jobs state wide - a poor return for the 10's of billions of dollars invested. Most of the tax dollars coming back to the counties will never be seen since the depreciation is 10 year accelerated leaving little at the end of the tax break period for the counties to reap. So I say - NO RENEWABLES IN THIS BILL, if we have to have it at all.

It is also a travesty that 7 people on a school board can make policy for a county when they have no knowledge to do so and are taken advantage of with side payments or bribes to accept these agreements. You don't give authority to our counties to have building regulations for these industrial complexes, but we can let school boards give away potential millions of dollars in tax revenue. NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES!

Thank You for Your consideration - Joanna Friebele

Charlene Reagan
Self and True Texas Project
SPICEWOOD, TX

Oppose HB5

Please vote to oppose HB5. This bill will bring back corporate welfare. Texas is attracting enough new businesses without having to give up valuable tax revenue.

Charlie Evans
Self / retired
Houston, TX

"My name is Charlie Evans. I oppose HB5 because it would continue a \$31 Billion mistake of diverting resources intended for schools and burdening taxpayers. Furthermore, I oppose this bill because studies show that 85% of companies would locate here without these incentives. A closer look at other states reveals that investments in infrastructure, people, and market access are what truly attract businesses, none of which are addressed by HB5."

Robert Sander, Mr.

Self and TMO

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose this bill as it removes funding for public schools which are underfunded already in Texas and we don't want to graduate students who are not equipped for the job market when they graduate now and this will only make that worse. This bill is designed to attract new jobs but it takes money from schools that supply candidates for those jobs. Foolish to do that in my opinion. Indeed I have retired from a company that tried to take advantage of these kinds of free money despite already having made up their minds to proceed without this free money.

Calista Herbert

Self/Retired

Houston, TX

I understand the desire and need to have a strong business climate and hence, am not completely opposed to the aims of this bill. However, there need to be some qualifications on awarding tax breaks to corporations.

- * There should be a time limit of 2-5 years.
- * There should be a specific and measurable number of jobs which the company will bring to Texas.
- * There should be annual audits and analysis to see if the company is living up to its stated benefits.
- * If the benefits are not met, the company MUST give up the tax benefits immediately.

These are sensible constraints. Please put these and more in HB bill.

Carole Dodson

Self - retired

Houston, TX

I oppose HB5 because it would continue a \$31 Billion mistake of diverting resources intended for schools and burdening taxpayers. Furthermore, I oppose this bill because studies show that 85% of companies would locate here without these incentives. A closer look at other states reveals that investments in infrastructure, people, and market access are what truly attract businesses, none of which are addressed by HB5."

Thank you for spending some of your weekend to ensure that our property tax dollars benefit Texas schools, families and the Texas economy.

Sincerely,

Carole Dodson

Catherine Olde

retired

Fulshear, TX

My name is Catherine M. Olde and a leader with TMO in Houston. I oppose HB5 because it would continue a \$31 Billion mistake of diverting resources intended for schools and burdening taxpayers. Furthermore, I oppose this bill because studies show that 85% of companies would locate here without these incentives. A closer look at other states reveals that investments in infrastructure, people, and market access are what truly attract businesses, none of which are addressed by HB5.

RUSSELL METZLER

Gas Product Services

HOUSTON, TX

hb5 seeks to bring back chapter 313. This is bad policy and should be defeated.

Robert Flanary
H.C. Pct 800
Houston, TX

Dear Rep. Hunter,

The grassroots conservatives fought to eliminate Ch 313 and do not support any bill that would revive it or something similar. So, we recommend that this bill not move forward.

Sincerely,
Robert Flanary
Pct 800 Chair

Sheridan DeGrace
Self - retired
Houston, TX

Please consider opposing this bill. We should not divert money from schools that sorely need more funding.

LUCY CAIRE
PAVE, HOUSTON, TEXAS
HOUSTON, TX

I understand the desire and need to have a strong business climate and hence, am not completely opposed to the aims of this bill. However, there need to be some qualifications on awarding tax breaks to corporations.

- * There should be a time limit of 2-5 years.
- * There should be a specific and measurable number of jobs which the company will bring to Texas.
- * There should be annual audits and analysis to see if the company is living up to its stated benefits.
- * If the benefits are not met, the company **MUST** give up the tax benefits immediately.

These are sensible constraints. Please put these and more in the HB5 bill.

Susan Bolling
TMO
Houston, TX

"My name is Susan Bolling. I oppose HB5 because it would continue a \$31 Billion mistake of diverting resources intended for schools and burdening taxpayers. Furthermore, I oppose this bill because studies show that 85% of companies would locate here without these incentives. A closer look at other states reveals that investments in infrastructure, people, and market access are what truly attract businesses, none of which are addressed by HB5."

Lisa Stone
self
HOUSTON, TX

As one of many leaders with TMO in Houston, I join all those urging you to oppose HB 5. I oppose HB5 because it would continue a \$31 Billion mistake of diverting resources clearly intended for our public schools, while also unduly burdening taxpayers. Furthermore, I oppose this bill because studies show that 85% of companies would locate here **WITHOUT** these incentives. A closer look at other states clearly shows that investments in infrastructure, people, and market access are what truly attract most businesses, none of which are addressed by HB5.

coetta peterson
Texas Metropolitan Organization
Houston, TX

I stand with the citizens who agree that our school taxes can better spent on our public schools to help teachers, students, parents, and communities as they strive to compete with global communities. Large corporations and big business do not need the money from hard working people. They have options where the community doesn't.

Mary Ann Jackson, Mrs.
Self - Retired
Cypress, TX

Please vote AGAINST

Maria Burdick
PAVE nonpartisan political action group
Houston, TX

While I am in favor of economic development, and do not oppose incentives for new businesses to settle in Texas, I DO oppose the lack of accountability in HB5. The former Chapter 313 had weak job/wage requirements and a 10-year limit on exemptions. Please strengthen HB5 to include a reduced timespan for the tax breaks, to include specific, measurable data on the benefits to be received, and to eliminate the tax breaks if the benefits do not occur.

Sheen Smith
Myself
Houston, TX

I understand and agree with the desire and need to have a strong business climate in Texas that attracts organizations to our state. However, there needs to be clear and measurable qualifications for awarding tax breaks to corporations and accountability with clawbacks if the measurements are not achieved. Other states, that put true teeth into their similar programs, have been documented to receive a better return on investment. We do not need to head down a similar or worse path to the Chapter 313 program.

- * There should be a time limit of 5 years. That is enough time for a company to plan and implement their commitments to the citizens of Texas
- * There must be a specific and measurable number of jobs which the company will bring to Texas.
- * There must be annual audits and analysis to see if the company is living up to its stated and documented commitments.
- * If the benefits are not met, the company MUST give up the tax benefits immediately.
- * There must be allocated budget for the appropriate state agency to receive a recipient's documented compliance and audit all submissions for correctness.

These are sensible and common sense guidelines. Please ensure these requests are included in the HB5 bill. Do not create another unconstrained handout to companies that do not meet their commitments and rip off the citizens of the State of Texas once again.

JOHN NOBLE, PRESIDENT
COOL FLOW, INC.
HOUSTON, TX

THE ATTEMPT TO BRING BACK CHAPTER 313 AND IS A BLATANT A BETRAYAL OF THE TAXPAYERS.
DADE PHELAN AND THOSE WHO VOTED FOR HIM AS SPEAKER DO NOT REPRESENT THE WISHES OF
CONSERVATIVES WHO PUT THEM IN OFFICE.
I HAVE NOTHING BUT UTTER CONTEMPT FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE WHO WOULD VOTE FOR
ANYTHING THAT PHELAN IS IN FAVOR OF.

Socorro Perales
TMO
Dallas, TX

Do not give money in tax abatements to large corporations and take it away from our public schools.

Judy Schockling
Pave
Sugar Land, TX

While I am in favor of economic development, and do not oppose incentives for new businesses to settle in Texas, I DO oppose the lack of accountability in these bills. The former Chapter 313 had weak job/wage requirements and a 10-year limit on exemptions. Please strengthen HB5 to include a reduced timespan for the tax breaks, to include specific, measurable data on the benefits to be received, and to eliminate the tax breaks if the benefits do not occur.

Darlene Rubio
Seld Retired Social Worker
Friendswood, TX

My name is Darlene Rubio, a retired Texan. I oppose HB 5 because it would divert tax money from public schools which are greatly in need of better funding.

Studies show that large corporations are not dependent on tax breaks. They will locate in Texas anyway. Why then would we give them tax breaks rather than provide better schools for our youngest Texans ?

Please vote to defeat HB 5.

Melanie Stidham, Miss
self - retired
Houston, TX

I am against passing this bill. It is a complete affront to all the taxpayers in Texas who worked last session to rid Texas of this. It is opposed by both Democrat and Republican Grassroots.

Katherine Dotsey
self retired
Houston, TX

I understand the desire and need to have a strong business climate and hence, am not completely opposed to the aims of this bill. However, there need to be some qualifications on awarding tax breaks to corporations.

- * There should be a time limit of 2-5 years.
- * There should be a specific and measurable number of jobs which the company will bring to Texas.
- * There should be annual audits and analysis to see if the company is living up to its stated benefits.
- * If the benefits are not met, the company MUST give up the tax benefits immediately.

These are sensible constraints. Please put these and more in the HB5 bill.

Marie Pousson
TMO Houston
Houston, TX

I'm Marie Pousson, voter and taxpayer in 77018. As a retired public school educator, I OPPOSE HB5 as a measure that would divert billions from public education. These companies would move here to Texas without the incentive, and this bill would burden taxpayers like me and burden school budgets. There is no accountability with these incentives and little transparency to the public. Real attractions to businesses are having good infrastructure, investment in people who live in Texas, and market access. HB 5 doesn't provide this. It is another form of corporate welfare. DO NOT SUPPORT HB5. Instead, support families and public schools in Texas. Quit putting profits over people and children. Invest instead in public education.

Denise Stasio
PAVE
Houston, TX

I understand the desire and need to have a strong business climate and hence, am not completely opposed to the aims of this bill. However, there need to be some qualifications on awarding tax breaks to corporations.

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- * There should be a specific and measurable number of jobs which the company will bring to Texas.
- * There should be annual audits and analysis to see if the company is living up to its stated benefits.
- * If the benefits are not met, the company MUST give up the tax benefits immediately.

These are sensible constraints. Please put these and more in the HB5 bill.

Lindsey Pollock, Dr.
Self/Educator
Houston, TX

My name is Lindsey Pollock and a leader with TMO in Houston. I oppose HB5 because it would continue a \$31 Billion mistake of diverting resources intended for schools and burdening taxpayers. Furthermore, I oppose this bill because studies show that 85% of companies would locate here without these incentives. A closer look at other states reveals that investments in infrastructure, people, and market access are what truly attract businesses, none of which are addressed by HB5.

JoAnn McCracken

Myself retired.

Houston, TX

Dear epresentative.s

Please vote against this bill. It is bad for Texas taxpayers. We are sick of paying for your corporate donors. The school districts are selling out the residence by giving away our money. We deserve a break. This is a bad, bad bill. Please vote against it. Thank you.

Betty Boren Avery

Self

Conroe, TX

Chapter 313 was removed...Texans do not need to pay out of the GENERAL Fund of Texas.. Those who promote 313 are not elected....Opposed to 313...

Kellen Zale

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose HB 5 and urge lawmakers to vote against it. The government is not supposed to pick winners and losers: legislation should not discriminate against renewable energy, which is a key industry in Texas and crucial for the future of the state's economy and people. HB 5 not only puts the government into the inappropriate role of picking favored industries and discriminating against the renewable energy industry that is crucial to the future of Texas, but it also is fiscally unsound: it provides corporate subsidies of nearly \$1 million for each job created to multi-billion dollar corporations, many of which would create these jobs as part of their business without this subsidy anyway. ExxonMobil, Dow Chemical, Chevron Phillips Chemical, and other multi-billion dollar international conglomerates should not be getting taxpayer money, especially since it is coming out of the budget for our public schools. The children of Texas deserve better and I urge lawmakers to vote against HB 5.

Beverly Gatlin

Self

Italy, TX

Please vote NO for this bill. Thank you!

Stacy Mayfield

Self Retired

Midlothian, TX

NO to this bill

Maureen O'Connell

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose HB5 because it does nothing to support the children & families of Texas. It would continue a \$31 Billion poor choice of diverting resources intended for schools and burdening taxpayers. Furthermore, I oppose this bill because studies show that 85% of companies would locate here without these incentives. A closer look at other states reveals that investments in infrastructure, people, and market access are what truly attract businesses, none of which are addressed by HB5."This is nothing more than a veiled effort to support big business while diminishing the resources needed to improve the quality of life for ALL citizens.

PATRICIA HARRISON, MRS.

SELF

OVILLA, TX

NO

karen Pritchett, Ms.

Self

Bryan, TX

Please vote no on HB5

Debra Wolgemuth

McLennan County, Precinct 44

Waco, TX

NO -Stop the Chapter 313 Tax Abatements

ANN MACALUSO, MRS

SELF

HOUSTO, TX

HB5 is affront to Texas Taxpayers who worked last session to rid Texas of this subsidy of corporate school district property taxes.

It's opposed by Democrats and Republicans and needs to be defeated.

Melissa Rowell, Honorable

Self

Houston, TX

I am OPPOSED to this bill. Thank you.

Dewey Magee, Mr.

Self

Portland, TX

Stop giving these giant corporations tax breaks. They will locate where it makes the most sense for their interests, they do not need to be incentivized to a particular area. They come in promising the world, then fail to deliver, all the while getting huge tax breaks that the citizen have to make up. They promise x numbers of jobs which ends up less than forecast, and the tax breaks they get per job do not make any sense economically. I am sick of watching my taxes rise and rise while they are getting tax breaks. They pollute our local air and water and do the bare minimum to mitigate releases.

Cindy Fountain, Ms

Self, Retail Merchandiser

Cleburne, TX

I oppose this bill. Tax breaks for big business mean less money for schools, and all one has to do is look at the financial statement of big business and the financial statements of our public schools. The new bill is even worse than the old loophole. It has no language to attract businesses to Texas, but rather to keep businesses in Texas. Curious as to why Exxon and other oil, gas, and other petrochemical companies would leave Texas - they get enormous benefits from being here in many ways. And, why if a bill is supposed to incentivize business in Texas, would it intentionally leave out renewable energy, one of the fastest growing industries worldwide? Tax abatements have not helped Texas public schools, which means they hurt our students, teachers and staff. Thank you.

Reed Bilz
Self
Fort Worth, TX

The corporate welfare program known as Chapter 313 ended on December 31, 2022. I am asking you to OPPOSE bringing it back. I am also asking you to OPPOSE excluding renewable energy companies from these tax breaks.

Cathy Elmore
First Congregational Church, TMO
Houston, TX

I oppose HB5 or any 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.

Most corporations that apply for Ch. 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. In 2022, there were a record number of Ch. 313 applications, including from corporations whose facilities won't open until 2040 or, like Samsung, aren't even sure how the funds will be used. In 2015, Greg Abbott vetoed an expansion of Ch. 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. The former Ch. 313 had weak job/wage requirements and HB 5 removes even those. Studies show that 85% of companies would locate here without incentives.

This comes at the expense of our children. Texas students and school districts continue to face unprecedented challenges: a huge post-pandemic learning deficit and an acute teacher shortage. 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. 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. Keeping school property taxes for schools will help Texas maintain a competitive workforce by educating our future leaders. We need to bolster our public schools rather than take funding away.

We DO want Texas to be business friendly. But not at the expense of our children's education. 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.

If you MUST replace Ch. 313, decouple it from school property taxes. The program should have its own line item in the Texas budget and have strong accountability requirements: companies who benefit from the program must actually bring significant specific and measurable jobs and good wages to Texas. The program duration should be no longer than 5 years. The legislature must also fund the personnel to oversee, monitor and publicly report the benefits these companies have agreed to in exchange for the incentives they receive. If a company does not comply with the program requirements, the incentives should be terminated, and the company should be prohibited from reapplying for 10 years.

Calvin Tillman
Self
Valley View, TX

I encourage to oppose HB 5. This is another mechanism of corporate welfare. Our property taxes will continue to increase with this type of legislation. When tax breaks or abatements are given to corporations, this loss in revenue is made up by the rest of the property tax payers. We have finally gotten rid of this bad loophole, and I encourage you to not support this legislation.

Sylvia Coulson
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. My taxes are too high and this bill only makes them higher by forcing me to pay the taxes abated for the "favored" companies.

James Skopal, Mr
Pave
Houston, TX

I understand the desire and need to have a strong business climate and hence, am not completely opposed to the aims of this bill. However, there need to be some qualifications on awarding tax breaks to corporations.

- * There should be a time limit of 2-5 years.
- * There should be a specific and measurable number of jobs which the company will bring to Texas.
- * There should be annual audits and analysis to see if the company is living up to its stated benefits.
- * If the benefits are not met, the company MUST give up the tax benefits immediately.

These are sensible constraints. Please put these and more in the HB5 bill.

Leticia Peña Martinez, Senior VP, Government Affairs & Advocacy
North San Antonio Chamber
San Antonio, TX

We strongly support CSHB 5, the Texas Jobs and Security Act. This legislation is critical to ensuring Texas can compete for large, capital-intensive investments, which bring jobs and long term revenue to Texas communities.

A modernized economic development tool is crucial to attracting jobs, investments, and incentivizing the next wave of manufacturing and energy production. As evidenced by the massive investments from corporations like Tesla, Toyota, Texas Instruments, and others, these deals not only bring dollars and jobs, but entire ecosystems (supply chains and associated vendors) to our communities.

Texas cannot and should not rely on another state or country for basic or advanced technological needs.

Carrie Stewart
Self
Colleyville, TX
I oppose this bill

James Ransdell
Self
Seguin, TX

Don't bring back Chapter 313 style Corporate Welfare on the backs of over taxed people of Texas. Oppose this bill.

Allison Craig
Self; college professor
Fort Worth, TX

Please oppose this corporate welfare bill that will hurt our Texas budget, environment, and, in the long run, economy by giving money to companies whose short-term profits are huge (they can afford to employ Texans without a bribe to do so!) and whose long term future is uncertain as long as they complacently rely on state tax rebates rather than shifting their business model to address the need for renewable energy.

Joshua Schneuker
City of Seguin & Seguin Economic Development Corporation
Seguin, TX

On behalf of the City of Seguin and the Seguin Economic Development Corporation, we would like to express our support for HB 5.

State leaders have championed business-friendly policies and incentives to build the state's economy, attract and grow businesses and develop a talented workforce. It explains why Texas just won the Governor's Cup for job creation from Site Selection Magazine for an eleventh straight year. The intense competition to attract major business investments that create good-paying jobs takes place at an international level. Other states and countries provide a variety of incentives to lure investments. To remain competitive, we must ensure we level the playing field. With the expiration of Chapter 313 at the end of 2022, economic developers in Texas no longer have access to a critical incentive that has helped bring billions of dollars of investments and hundreds of thousands of jobs to Texas. Here in Seguin, incentive programs like Chapter 313 have helped change our community for the better. In the late 2000s, Caterpillar opened a nearly two million square foot manufacturing facility in Seguin. The competition for this project was stiff, however, the Chapter 313 incentive program helped secure this investment to Seguin. Now operating for more than ten years, Caterpillar is the largest employer in Seguin and the most significant contributor to our economy. Without leveraging a Chapter 313 incentive for this project, there is a good chance that Seguin would have missed out on this generational economic development project.

The City of Seguin and the Seguin Economic Development Corporation are calling on our elected leaders to create a new, transparent, and accountable economic development policy through HB 5 that protects Texas' position as the nation's economic powerhouse. HB 5 will help ensure that we can continue to bring new capital investment, jobs, and long-term revenue to our schools and communities.

Tom Nobis
'self' and I am retired
Houston, TX

I am Against this bill. This is bringing back Chapter 313 that was sunset in the Last legislation it is a tax break given by a school district who has no skin in the game as the state compensates the school for any revenue loss. Companies are coming to Texas due to the current economic climate. Adding more incentives just takes more money away from Texas Tax Payers.

Jim Elmore

St. Thomas PCUSA Social Justice Committee

Houston, TX

I oppose HB5 or any 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.

Most corporations that apply for Ch. 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. In 2022, there were a record number of Ch. 313 applications, including from corporations whose facilities won't open until 2040 or, like Samsung, aren't even sure how the funds will be used. In 2015, Greg Abbott vetoed an expansion of Ch. 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. The former Ch. 313 had weak job/wage requirements and HB 5 removes even those. Studies show that 85% of companies would locate here without incentives.

This comes at the expense of our children. Texas students and school districts continue to face unprecedented challenges: a huge post-pandemic learning deficit and an acute teacher shortage.

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. 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. Keeping school property taxes for schools will help Texas maintain a competitive workforce by educating our future leaders. We need to bolster our public schools rather than take funding away.

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Sandi Ruble

self

Austin, TX

This is a bad bill. It will cause tax abatements to fall on tax payers.

Al Arreola

United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce

Corpus Christi, TX

The United Corpus Christi Chamber supports state and local economic development incentives to attract new and expand existing large capital intensive projects. The Corpus Christi region has benefitted from such incentives to the tune of \$57 billion in investments.

These large projects have not only brought jobs, but entire supply chain operations and associated vendors to our community.

Due to these investments the medium income in our region has risen from \$41,009 to \$57,387 over the past decade. This is real progress for the families of the Coastal Bend. This is the reason we need to continue the successful Texas model of economic development so that all Texans can benefit from greater opportunities.

Bonnie Seelig
Self Retired
Spicewood, TX

OPPOSE HB 5

This is the corporate welfare of Chapter 313. Why would we want to pay businesses to come to Texas when people are flocking here because we have low taxes, no income tax and an inviting business climate? Why would we pay people when they are motivated to get here?

When they do come with the promise of jobs, the jobs are for their California workers. We don't need more California voters in Texas.

Rose Benavidez
Starr County Industrial Foundation
RIO GRANDE CITY, TX

Rural communities like Starr County seldom have a opportunities to attract large investments, but economic development tools to facilitate this recruitment relies heavily, if not exclusively, on their availability for all types of projects that include renewable energy. The State of Texas must maintain its standing as the leader in economic prosperity across the nation and can only achieve this with competitive incentives. The ability to increase our tax base and maintain a lower ad valorem tax for our residents is only possible with capital intensive investments in our community. We urge the passage of HB5 and thank Chairman Hunter and each of you for your support.

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. IDRA is concerned that HB 5's proposal to offer even temporary tax incentives to corporations would leave school districts in the lurch in the long-term.

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 incentives through 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 that benefit all Texans, 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.

Mark Ramsey, P.E.

self

Spring, TX

Utterly abominable bill that has the effect of the government appointees or electeds picking winners AT THE EXPENSE OF LOCAL and STATEWIDE TAXPAYERS. This concept was thoroughly defeated at last during the prior session by bipartisan efforts. It DILUTES and HURTS the attention on EDUCATION in local schools. It tends to support technologies and "CORPORATE WELFARE" for companies that either 1) do not need it in the first place, or 2) would never survive in a free market economy. It leads to CORRUPTION and deals that defy common sense.

There is utterly no good reason (outside of lobbyist bonuses) to "resurrect" this dead and very bad bill/concept.

Jim Johnson

Pearland Chamber of Commerce

Pearland, TX

The Pearland Chamber of Commerce is in support of HB 5 and believes it is a much needed tool for our state, county and city.

Matt Boms, Executive Director

Texas Advanced Energy Business Alliance

Austin, TX

Dear Chairman Meyer, Vice-Chair Thierry and Members of the Committee:

My name is Matthew Boms and I am the Executive Director of the Texas Advanced Energy Business Alliance (TAEBA) which seeks to grow market opportunities for advanced energy businesses. The companies we represent create jobs, contribute meaningfully to the Texas economy while keeping costs low by providing the full suite of affordable energy to Texans. I appreciate the Committee's efforts in revitalizing the Texas Economic Development Act, or Chapter 313, which spurred sustained industry investment in Texas through valuable property tax breaks. The program has been a boon to the economy and has established Texas as an energy leader.

The Texas Economic Development Act can continue to be a strong signal to this growing industry that Texas is the place to invest, to create permanent jobs and to scale. I would like to respectfully request that any revitalization of Chapter 313 be technology-neutral and include advanced energy resources. These technologies, which include renewable energy, enable Texas to meet growing demand while keeping costs low, conserving natural resources, and improving air quality and public health. Additionally, the renewable energy industry is poised to deliver significant value to states that welcome investment; estimates suggest the global renewable energy market will be valued at approximately \$2 trillion dollars by 2030.^{1 2}

Texas should position itself strategically to capture the full value of this industry in the future—starting with Chapter 313.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Matthew Boms

Executive Director

Texas Advanced Energy Business Alliance

mboms@texasadvancedenergy.org

Jacob Hogan, Director of Public Policy
Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce
Waco, TX

Honorable Chairman Meyer, Vice Chair Thierry and committee members,

On behalf of the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce, we are submitting our support for H.B. 5 – The Texas Jobs and Securities Act.

The Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce is a business leadership organization that advances a forward-thinking and visionary agenda for economic growth and quality of life. The Chamber prepares and markets Greater Waco for the businesses and jobs of the future and enhances the quality of life in the community by promoting strategic development. The Chamber is the lead economic development organization in Waco and McLennan County, Texas with a proven record of working in a collaborative manner with a broad range of partners including the City of Waco, McLennan County, the Waco Industrial Foundation, the Waco & McLennan County Economic Development Corporation, Baylor University, Texas State Technical College, McLennan Community College, and other strategic partners to attract business and industry into our marketplace, address the needs of our existing employers, strengthen and diversify our economy, and grow and improve our workforce.

We have all heard the numerous accomplishments of Texas Economic Development in recent years. As a result, it can be easy to become complacent or rest on our past successes to predict future economic development success in our state. However, those successes do not happen by accident. Amongst other factors, it is the outcome of legislators providing our economic developers with the right tools in the toolbox to compete at the highest levels.

The landscape of economic development has become increasingly competitive across the nation and globally as other states and nations deploy their own economic development incentive programs, including the phase in of NEW tax revenue over time. Recently, we have seen large capital-intensive projects go to Georgia, Ohio, and New York over Texas. This is an unacceptable trend that could continue if we do not provide our economic developers with strong, innovative resources and mechanisms to ensure an even playing field.

Since 2018, McLennan County has announced 45 projects across urban and rural communities. Of these announcements 19 have been expansions by existing businesses and 26 have been new businesses landing in our community. These projects bring with them nearly 4,000 new jobs, \$2.5 billion in new taxable investment and 7.5 million square feet of real estate, the majority of which is new construction. 39 of the 45 announced projects engaged in some form of incentive activity with 13 receiving a property tax abatement. Simply put, we would have lost some of these projects without the right economic development tools. Our community, and state, would have paid a long-term price.

It is vital for the continued success of the Texas economic engine to implement a modern, transparent economic development program in our state as laid out in H.B. 5.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cathy Fulton
Self
Port Aransas, TX

I oppose HB 5 by Todd Hunter. The 313s stopped for a reason, because the 313s just like HB 5 is a rip off for the public school system. Tax abatements have proven to be a failure for the "benefits", because taxes that get abated should be going into the public school system. It has been proven that monies made by an industrial development get rolled back to company profit in the hundreds of millions. Shame on you Mr. Hunter for selling out your own represented communities when Mr. Hunter know how strongly we oppose the continued industrial pollution and rape of the Texas Coast. Contrary to Mr. Hunter's claim that this is not a 313 bill, it very much is the old 313.

Kevin Kieschnick, Honorable
Nueces County Tax Assessor Collector
Corpus Christi, TX
Support

Jonathan Packer, President/CEO
New Braunfels Chamber / New Braunfels Economic Development Foundation
New Braunfels, TX

The New Braunfels Chamber and the New Braunfels Economic Development Foundation fully support HB 5. Thank you for your leadership in advancing this important bill. Our team is on site to drop a card in support.

John Hamak
self
Amarillo, TX

I oppose this bill as it reinstates corporate welfare.

Georgina Reynoso
Network of Texas IAF Organization & The Metropolitan Organization (TMO)
Spring, TX

My name is Georgina Reynoso and a leader with St. Leo the Great Catholic Church and TMO in Houston. I oppose HB5 because it would continue a \$31 Billion mistake of diverting resources intended for schools and burdening taxpayers. Furthermore, I oppose this bill because studies show that 85% of companies would locate here without these incentives. A closer look at other states reveals that investments in infrastructure, people, and market access are what truly attract businesses, none of which are addressed by HB5.

Kelle Marsalis, Pres & CEO
Plano Chamber of Commerce
Plano, TX

Dear Chairman Meyer:

The Plano Chamber is writing to express support for HB 5 which, alongside other economic development incentives, would preserve our state's business climate and foster future growth. HB 5 is critical in ensuring Texas can compete for large capital-intensive investments, thereby providing jobs and long-term revenue for Texas communities. Maintaining our state and region's economic competitiveness is paramount, and we support HB 5 because it will ensure stability within both our regulatory and political climate and foster a predictable environment for business investment.

HB 5 will promote economic independence, national security, and job creation. Research shows that an overwhelming majority of Texas voters agree that limited, temporary property tax discounts make sense when exchanged for long term revenue and economic development. In an effort to create favorable capital costs for businesses, other states and countries have deployed their own temporary tax discounts and incentives to the detriment of Texas, losing our state several multibillion-dollar deals and costing jobs, investments, additional tax base and growth. Texas voters also feel strongly that our state should enhance its supply chain to promote economic independence and national security, and 84 percent agree we are too reliant on other nations for the products we need. HB 5 will attract manufacturing and investment to Texas to help stabilize our national supply chain for key goods and services.

We urge our legislators to vote yes on HB 5 and deliver a new, transparent, and accountable economic development policy to protect Texas' position as the nation's economic powerhouse and secure a bright future for the next generation.

Sincerely,

Kelle Marsalis
President & CEO
Plano Chamber of Commerce

Greg Gibson
Texas Association of Midsize Schools
Graham, TX

We are testifying "On" the bill. School districts being involved in economic development is a critical need for many midsize schools. Many of our districts (1,500-5,000 students), may only be able to attract industry and/or other positive impact to taxable value through the use of economic development incentives. Many of our smaller districts only receive incentives for wind and solar projects. Therefore, we would like for there to be consideration of these projects to be included in the new economic development program.

Michael Gallops, President/CEO
Rowlett Area Chamber & Visitors Center
Rowlett, TX

Nearly 250 chambers of commerce, economic development councils, and business groups support HB 5 by Rep Hunter. Communities need a new economic development tool to boost manufacturing and supply chain projects that create jobs and generate tax revenue for schools. The Texas Jobs and Security Act creates a new economic development tool that gives communities a competitive edge to attract major manufacturing, water, and grid reliability projects. Economic development is good for communities! CSHB 5 ensures Texas can offer temporary tax discounts to major manufacturing, national/state security, and infrastructure projects — in exchange for job creation and long-term revenue for communities and schools. The Rowlett Area Chamber, our Board of Directors, our almost 400 members and the 10,000 employees we represent, support this bill!

John Bolgiano

Self - Retired

Llano, TX

Opposed.

Texas tax payer money should not be used for corporate welfare. Having government pick winners and losers is not a sound economic base.

Cathy Fulton

Self and Port Aransas Conservancy

Port Aransas, TX

Representative Hunter and others on Ways and Means Committee, Port Aransas Conservancy opposes HB 5. We also wish to see the committee substitute which is being discussed in this hearing, but there is no link to read the substitute. If the claim of transparency is true, we suggest you start by being transparent and making the committee substitute available to the public. This is the typical Texas Two Step move, claiming transparency, and not allowing the public full access to the committee substitute.

Wallis Goodman

Self (educator)

Austin, TX

Please quit providing corporate subsidies and instead invest more in public education! All the stories I read today suggest that we're not having problems luring businesses here, but we ARE having problems with development of a workforce. Let alone the equity questions involved!

Tyler Schroeder

The Boeing Company

San Antonio, TX

I am writing today in support of HB 5.

This bill allows the Legislature to preserve the business climate and foster future growth by developing a new, transparent and accountable economic development policy. This mission is critical to ensuring Texas can compete for large capital intensive investments, which bring jobs and long-term revenue to Texas communities. Companies locate their projects where the capital costs are favorable. Texas has been a national leader in securing large capital-intensive investments, but we could fall behind. Other states and countries are deploying their own temporary tax discounts and incentives. Over the last year, Texas lost several multibillion-dollar deals, including Rivian to Georgia, Intel to Ohio, and Micron to New York. Texas stands to lose more jobs, more investments, more tax base and more growth if we don't restock our economic development toolbox with a new economic development incentive this legislative session. Research shows that Texas voters overwhelmingly agree that limited, temporary property tax discounts make sense when exchanged for long term revenue and economic development. Research also demonstrates that voters feel strongly that Texas should enhance its supply chain to promote economic independence and national security. In fact, 84 percent agree that we are too reliant on other nations for the products we need. Texas Lawmakers have an opportunity to once again be the solution to some of the most difficult problems for our country and our state. We must do more to attract manufacturing and investment to Texas to meet our needs and help stabilize our national supply chain for key goods and services. Texas needs to modernize and retool to compete for future projects. A new, transparent, and accountable economic development policy is essential to protecting Texas' position as the nation's economic powerhouse.

Julie Nye, Mrs
IOBCWA.org
Ingleside, TX

Responsible legislation would not allow corporate subsidies of nearly \$1 million for each job created. Nor would they discriminate against renewable energy which is a key industry in Texas and for our future."

I oppose taking money from public education to subsidize polluters that don't follow the law and that cause health problems for Texans young and old.

Jessica Latimer
Self/retired
San Antonio, TX

This is a terrible bill that gives corporations, our tax money. Please make corporations pay the taxes. They should pay! I am surprised that Mr. Hunter introduced this Bill, but of course, I realize that he is from the area Corpus Christi, where all of these big companies are. And we have given them tax breaks forever, I know, because I lived in Corpus Christi and have just moved to San Antonio.

Sharon Mayer, CEO
Allen Fairview Chamber of Commerce
Allen, TX

We urge your support of this bill!

Gretchen Mickler, Mrs.
Chairwoman Republican Party Prct 283 Williamson County Texas 78613
Cedar Park, TX

NO FOREIGN ENTITIES MUST SPEAK ENGLISH FIRST

Gretchen Mickler, Mrs.
Chairwoman Republican Party Prct 283 Williamson County Texas 78613
Cedar Park, TX

VOTE YES MAKE ENGLISH STATE LANGUAGE

TARYN WHITE
JRC HOME SOLUTIONS OF TEXAS
CONROE, TX

Creating more jobs for our community is of upmost importance

Patrick Nye
Ingleside on the Bay Coastal Watch Association
Ingleside, TX

This is a horrible bill!! Discriminatory against renewables that protect the environment, use less water and the only transition to climate change and sea level rise. Nueces County has highest cancer rate in the Nation. Why doesn't the legislators enforce more emission and waste water controls? Giving money to rich corporations through the 313 hurts millions of school children within Texas and promotes even more pollution to harm your constituents.
SAY NO TO THIS BILL

Jennifer Kratky
self, homemaker
Magnolia, TX

I am against this bill. I do not want any type of corporate welfare. There is already plenty of incentive for companies to move to Texas. Please do not shift even MORE of the tax burden onto individual citizens.

Linda Newton
Self, retired teacher
Brenham, TX

Please don't subsidize heavy industry with taxpayer dollars. Creating jobs is important, but this bill creates more wealth for large corporations than it does for citizens of Texas. Giving away money to industries that pollute our water and air doesn't help ordinary Texans and, in fact, hurts them economically because they are less well prepared for skilled jobs when schools without adequate funding cannot provide the education students need. This bill takes significantly reduces school funds. There are other ways to create jobs that will not destroy our quality of life and that will not deprive our schools of the money they need.

Susan Minnich
Self
Hudson Oaks, TX

Please vote against this bill! Sincerely, Susan Minnich

Linda Hanratty
self
FORT WORTH, TX

I oppose HB 5 because it would provide tax breaks for polluting fossil fuel infrastructure, but exclude tax breaks for renewable energy. That is just backwards. The oceans is rising on the Gulf Coast of Texas and we cannot afford to pump more pollution from fossil fuels into the air. Millions of Texans live on the Gulf Coast. Please do not jeopardize their future.

Amanda Posson
myself
Austin, TX

I am a mother of two public elementary school children and oppose HB 5 and any policy that gives tax breaks to corporations. These wasteful tax giveaway policies undermine Texas' 5.5 million public school children, teachers and staff, and our families. Texas' property taxes are now the highest in the country because the wealthiest corporations and individuals do not pay their fair share; working Texans are disproportionately taxed through property and sales taxes. Texans of all backgrounds deserve well funded public services; corporations must pay their fair share. Micron chose Central NY due to NY state's well funded public schools and community colleges, a skilled workforce, a reliable power grid and water resources, and affordable housing---not because of a tax break that Texas was able to offer. Corporate tax giveaways undermine all of us and provide no incentive or job creation.

Mary Smith
Self/retired
Arlington, TX

I am writing to oppose this bill. I do not believe in corporate welfare.and was relieved when Ch 313 faded last December.

Terry Putnam
self/retired
Georgetown, TX

This corporate welfare bill needs to be roundly defeated. The low tax and low regulation environment provided by Texas does not need to be augmented by giving away taxpayer money.

I am adamantly against this bill!!!

W. J. Putnam Putnam
Retired
Georgetown, TX

I am opposed to this bill. It is a give away of taxpayer dollars. Do not vote this bill out of committee! Kill it!!!

Shellie Hanlin
Self
Frisco, TX

I oppose this bill. HB 5 is corporate welfare and it will not help lower the property taxes of homeowners, renters, and property taxpayers. Tax abatements are against the RPT platform and the Democrat platform in Texas. Vote no on HB 5.

Julie Dahlberg
Self, consultant
La Vernia, TX

I oppose this bill because it is corporate welfare and the tax abatements given to corporations will fall in the backs of all property taxpayers. Please vote no on HB 5.

Alexandra Schilling
Self -Candidate for school board and stay at home mom
Garwood, TX

I oppose

Wanda Whitney, Mrs
self
Georgetown, TX

I say "NO" to this bill. This would replace the now expired Chapter 313 and it is a BAD bill. Tax abatements fall onto the tax payers.

Joyce L. Beck
Self, Teacher, and TXUUMJ
Fort Worth, TX

I am completely and absolutely opposed to HB 5.

I do not believe in corporate welfare. The oil and gas companies are already making huge profits, and their executive bonuses and salaries are obscene. There is a huge polluter in my neighborhood and the state government is giving them an average of \$950,000 in tax breaks for every job they promised to create. We do not need more jobs now, we need responsible care of creation and the environment for the sake of ourselves and our children.

These mega-corporations, such as Cheniere and ExxonMobil, polluters which raked in record profits last year, benefit while hard-working Texas miss out. All Texans are paying up to \$31 billion in corporate welfare. This disgraceful massive amount for big-time polluters comes out of funding for public schools. I believe in green energy, not pollution, pollution, and more pollution. Basically, Texas is beginning to stink to the high heavens, literally and morally.

Corporations already do not pay their taxes, and now they are even trying to get their hands on the taxes others pay. They should, at long last, start paying their fair share. They are ripping off society. If they are not willing to pay their taxes and contribute to the good of society, they should get out of the state of Texas, out of the country, move to the Cayman islands and quit using our roads and airports. It is time for the people to take back our government and kick these greedy corporate evil doers and bad citizens out.

Again, I am absolutely opposed to HB 5. Do not say you did not know this. It's time for Chapter 313 and HB 5 to go, one and for all.

Debbie Lindstrom
Self business owner
MCKINNEY, TX

I oppose this bill. It is tantamount to corporate welfare.

susan Lucas
self
BRYAN, TX

Please vote AGAINST passage of this bill

Mark Coppock
Self
Bryan, TX

OPPOSE HB 5

I'm urging you to OPPOSE school districts (via HB5), with our tax dollars, funding larger incentives for bringing in 3rd party consultants to guarantee corporate welfare to projects that would be here with or without the tax breaks.

Please be aware that this bill is just money out the door for rural and urban communities. As written, there's no audit, there's no follow through from the local authorities, and there's no public accountability or transparency to the taxpayer.

Additionally, Texans ought to be appalled that this bill is even being considered without a sunset provision.

Very best regards,

Mark Coppock
Bryan

Catherine Hinds

Myself

Gainesville, TX

I oppose this bill. It's corporate welfare and the tax abatements given to corporations will fall on the backs of all property taxpayers. Please vote no on this bill.

Gaylyn DeVine

DeVine Promotions & Printing

Pearland, TX

Texas is thriving without you giving away our tax dollars under this bill! Please vote NO to HB 5, which is just Chapter 313 with a fancy dress on!

Rhonda Bly

self business development

Austin, TX

I am writing in support of HB 5. HB 5 would ensure Texas has critical economic development tools to create jobs, provide additional resources to our schools, support K12/employer partnerships, and help keep our region and state globally competitive. These are issues which are key to the continued prosperity for the state and its citizens. Please consider approving this important bill.

Mineva Camarena Skeith, Rev.

Central Texas Interfaith

Austin, TX

I am Rev. Minerva Camarena Skeith, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church and leader with Central Texas Interfaith. Central Texas has been working on economic development for over 30 years through the creation of long term job training, partnering with public schools to develop Alliance Schools that demonstrated increase in academic achievement, and by working with our local and county officials to create tax incentives that required job creation, paid living wages with benefits and a career path and provided worker protections. Central believes in economy development.

HB 5 is as originally filed does not require companies any of the measures necessary to hold companies accountable for the public dollars that they receive. More importantly, HB 5 tax abatement comes not from city or county tax dollars, the abatements are from our local school districts. Our school districts need more funding not less. During the duration of the defunct Chapter 313, billions of dollars were taken off the tax roles. This is money that could have been used for our public schools.

Central Texas strongly believes that one of the best forms of economic development and attracting companies to our state is by having the best educated workforce. The state needs to increase investment in our public schools and increase the per pupil allotment not undermine our public schools by giving away tax dollars to multi billion dollar corporations. These companies benefit from an educated workforce, they should pay their fair share of the cost of educating our children.

Say no to HB 5 and Invest more money in our schools.

Kathy Ponce

Self

Maypearl, TX

I oppose this bill. Stop giving out Corporate Welfare.

Donnie Besch

Self

Spring, TX

Please Vote 'NO'

Ruth York, (1) VP; (2) Interim Chair

(1) Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County; (2) Texas Family Defense Committee; (3) self (Direct sales)

CISCO, TX

We oppose HB 5 as corporate welfare. The state should not be putting its finger on the scale in favor of certain businesses and disfavoring others. Additionally, this gives huge leverage to those officials handing out the favors in an unhealthy way.

Please vote "NO" on HB 5.

Susan Stewart

self

Pflugerville, TX

I am writing to submit comments in opposition to HB 5, the replacement for the chapter 313, that has devastated our communities and caused massive tax base loss to our local communities. If Texas is such a great place to live, Texas doesn't need to lure businesses with massive tax breaks at the expense of our local public schools. I urge you to do right by the citizens of Texas and defeat HB 5. Thank you.

Anna Fletcher

Self

Denton, TX

I am opposed to HB 5. It is nothing more than corporate welfare.