

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Higher Education
For HB 5150

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 10:13 AM

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Hearing Date: April 15, 2025 8:00 AM

D. Dale Fowler, Mr.

Self

Victoria, TX

HB 5150, transferring YHV to the Texas A&M system will be the most impactful event for the Victoria region in decades. Texas A&M better aligns with the communities I. The Victoria region from a cultural, economic and social industry perspective. Please move this initiative forward this legislative session.

Clara "Cally" Fromme

self - retired

Victoria, TX

Victoria, Texas would greatly benefit from the transfer of University of Houston Victoria to a Texas A&M campus. The A&M System has a strong reputation for successfully adding schools to their vast network. Texas A&M's reputation in agriculture and engineering are a natural fit for the needs of our region, not to mention their overall educational excellence and offerings.

The community is invigorated by this possibility and foresees decades of benefits from A&M's financial, educational, and leadership investment in the Crossroads region. The support for this transfer is sure to be a boon to our already thriving economic development efforts, development of our local workforce, and draw of new residents to our area.

While we are all grateful to the University of Houston's commitment to Victoria, I fully support HB 5150 and thank Representative AJ Louderback for bringing this bill forward and for the same work by Senator Lois Kolkhorst and Senator Paul Bettencort with SB2361.

With enthusiasm, we hope to welcome Texas A&M to our beloved city.

Tammy Murphy
Self - business owner
Victoria, TX

As a proud native of Victoria, a proud alumna of UHV, and a member of the University of Houston System Board of Regents, I am writing to share my strong personal support of HB 5150. I believe this change is not only beneficial for UHV and our Victoria community, but also aligns with the state's goals of improving higher education accessibility and fostering economic development throughout Texas. The transfer would strengthen the educational landscape of our region, making Victoria an even more attractive destination for prospective students and faculty. Additionally, this transfer is a strategic move that could have significant positive implications for our students, our region and the state of Texas as a whole, particularly regarding our agricultural and petrochemical industries.

Aligning UHV with the A&M System, could lead to the development of a skilled workforce that is better prepared to meet the demands of our region's agricultural and industrial sectors, ultimately driving economic growth.

My heart lies with UHV and our community it serves; therefore, I believe that transitioning to the Texas A&M System is not only a strategic step but a necessary one for our continued success and is in the best interest of all parties involved.

Thank you for your consideration of this vital transition. I look forward to the positive impacts this transition will bring.

Gregory Spears, Mr.
Self
Victoria, TX

I support this decision 100%. Thank you.

Robert Royer
Self
Victoria, TX

As a UHV alumni, I fully support this. I believe this is a path towards exponential growth for the university and seems to be an opportunity to bring more relevant programs to our community to increase workforce retention.

Ben Galvan
Self
Victoria, TX

I am a Victoria native and also a UHV graduate, earning my MBA in 1994. I have been a staunch supporter of UHV over the last decade and was awarded UHV's Distinguished Alumni of the year in 2019. Although the transfer of UHV to Texas A&M will be somewhat bittersweet for me, I wholehearted support this transition. Having a Texas A&M campus in Victoria will be a great investment in our community. I look forward to this transition and will continue to support higher education in Victoria, Texas under the Texas A&M flag. I look forward to this transition and growing our community through higher education. This is extremely exciting and has my utmost support.

Ben Galvan
President-CivilCorp

John Handley
Self, Financial Advisor
Victoria, TX

So thankful for all the support the UH System has provided to their Victoria location but in our city, the academic degree options that TAMU could provide would simply be a better match for our region. Really excited about the possibility to provide agricultural and engineering degree paths to our region. This could be a fantastic development for the families here.

David Murphy
Self - Chick-fil-A Franchisee
Victoria, TX

Setting aside my status as a UHV alum, I firmly believe transitioning Victoria's university into the A&M system will be beneficial for our town, our region and all stakeholders. A&M will better serve our current and future college students with curriculum related to area industry, offering our youth the opportunity to be educated here and find life-long employment in our area. A&M will remain viable by expanding the donor base in our community as well. As a business owner in Victoria and mostly a life-long Victorian, I cannot see a downside to this. The transition will help create increased opportunity and prosperity in our community for the foreseeable future!

Roger Welder
Self
Victoria, TX

I support HB 5150. As a former volunteer for UHV and former University of Houston System Regent I am extremely grateful to the UH System for all of the excellent educational services they have provided to Victoria, Texas and this region over the last many years. In recent years however it has become difficult for UHV to thrive and grow in a sustainable manor. Many people in our region believe that the Texas A&M University System is better equipped now to lead our local University. I join in that belief. This is not a criticism of the UH System. Texas A&M simply has more experience leading destination campuses in regions like Victoria, and their academic programs will be a better fit. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation.

Ben Keating
Keating Auto Group
Victoria, TX

The average Texas A&M system rural university has a market share of 10% of all high school graduates within 100 miles. Currently, UHV is at less than 1%. Victoria is desperate for a change. Texas A&M is the right fit for us. Please approve this bill

Robert Lee, Dr.
Self
Victoria, TX

House Bill 5150 Transfer of UHV to the Texas A&M System 250414

I have been a big supporter of UHV serving our area with superior educational advantages. When you consider the student population of Victoria College (which is doing a stellar job) of not feeding into UHV in record numbers there is something wrong. Yes it is true that UHV has been enlarging their footprint (building wise) in Victoria and for that we are grateful but and it is a big BUT, a building is just a building until it is filled with people (students). Something is just not right with the vision of the UH system for healthful growth of the Victoria campus.

There are 80,000 students graduating from high school within a one hundred mile radius. In the Texas A&M system they are successful in recruiting 10% of those students and the metric for UHV is 1%. The data shows that something is vitally wrong and you just have to ask why? Now I ask you what is the difference? Is it leadership from the top? Frankly I do not know but it is so apparent to me that if we keep doing the same thing we are going to get the same results. On the other hand if Texas A&M keeps doing the same thing getting the same results they enjoy I want to experience that for Victoria and surrounding counties.

That is why I am wholeheartedly supporting the transfer of UHV to the Texas A&M system. I appreciate what they have done and gotten us this far but it is time for a new CEO to have an opportunity to get us to the next level.

Tom Curtis
Self
Victoria, TX

Please approve this Bill. 100% support this transfer. Victoria will benefit and grow with TAMU as our 4-year University.

Michael Olson, Mr.

Self/Hospital CEO

Victoria, TX

I'm in favor of HB 5150 that will facilitate the transition of University of Houston Victoria to Texas A & M, as I believe they are well positioned to offer curriculum and programs that are well positioned for the needs of our community in the areas of healthcare and engineering just to name a couple. They have a solid reputation that will assist in recruiting and retention of students and faculty. There is a strong alignment with our community that will help us to grow the student population and thus build upon the economic development that will infuse new energy into our economy. We have many organizations who are considering establishing a production plant in our area, who need a reliable source of an educated workforce. I believe Texas A & M is positioned to provide that for our community from a resource perspective and program development expertise. As the CEO of a large hospital in Victoria, I feel strongly that this change will be extremely beneficial for our community.

Joe Cohen

Retired

Victoria, TX

Would be great for the community