



WORKING FOR BUSINESS. BELIEVING IN LUBBOCK.

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April 26, 2017

State Representative John Frullo
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

State Representative Dustin Burrows
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

Dear Representatives Frullo and Burrows,

Due to the abundance of natural resources in our home state, Texas is experiencing a stage of massive economic growth. Industry in the state is made competitive by the shale economy and the Panama Canal expansion. Due to this, new opportunities for import and export growth are quickly being created. Since 1913, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce has succeeded in its mission to strengthen, promote, and serve the business community. As the largest business federation on the South Plains, the Chamber is very invested in ensuring the Texas Legislature passes HB 3854, which creates Port Transportation Corridors, and generates jobs for Texans.

The Chamber represents over 2,000 members, who employ over 79,000 workers, and account for over \$2 billion in annual household earnings in Lubbock and West Texas. New projects created by chemical companies, looking to utilize the shale boom, are projected to create more than 150,000 new jobs and generate \$1.8 billion in state revenue. This is an essential piece of business Texans cannot afford to miss out on. In order to capitalize on industry growth such as this, we must ensure Texas has the ability to remain competitive with the rest of the country.

Texas is currently the only state in the country that does not allow trucks with full shipping containers access to its ports, which results in trucks to run as much as six to eight percent empty. HB 3854 has recently been introduced to allow fully loaded containers to access all the ports along the Texas Gulf Coast. Not only would this bill help Texas succeed economically, but also reduce taxes needed to fix county roads, increase safety and productivity for container trucks, reduce the number of trucks required to move shipments, and reduce traffic for commuters.

We encourage you to support the passage of this bill. It is essential to continue growing Texas' economy and remaining globally competitive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. McBride', written over a white background.

Eddie McBride, IOM
President and CEO

