

May 20, 2023

The Honorable Nathan Johnson
Texas Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711-2068

Dear Senator Johnson,

We, the undersigned, urge you to oppose H.B. 5, which is bad for taxpayers, bad for schools, and bad for the environment.

House Bill 5 seeks to revive the failed “Chapter 313” economic development program, which ended in 2022 amid criticism that the program used precious public dollars to lure new manufacturing facilities, many of which would have located in Texas without the support, and subsidized factories which pollute our air and water.

[HB5 kicks renewable energy projects out of the program and expands beyond Chapter 313](#) by allowing abatements for expansion of existing oil and gas facilities. It is bad for taxpayers, bad for schools, and bad for the environment.

- **BAD FOR TAXPAYERS** - The Chapter 313 program has already committed Texas taxpayers to \$31 Billion in subsidies to large corporations, most of which goes [out of state](#). HB 5 would not only keep the floodgates of unnecessary tax breaks open, but broadens qualifications to include expansion into more industries and to expansion projects of corporations already located here. This bill would continue the long history of [abuse of taxpayer money](#) and at the expense of Texas schoolchildren.
- **BAD FOR SCHOOLS** - 95% of schoolchildren were in districts [that lose potential funding because of Chapter 313](#). The program costs state taxpayers over \$1Billion/year, money which could be going to schools or other state priorities.
- **BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.** In 2021, recipients of chapter 313 agreements dumped more than 100 million tons of pollution into Texas skies. HB 5 would continue to subsidize polluters while removing clean, renewable energy from eligibility.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that you vote against the renewal of Texas Tax Code Chapter 313 in the form of HB 5. Instead, we urge you to support alternative policies that promote fair and transparent economic development, adequately fund our public education system, and ensure a level playing field for all businesses, including renewable energy, in Texas.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and we look forward to your support in safeguarding the interests of Texas communities, taxpayers, and our children’s future.

Sincerely,

Luke Metzger
Executive Director, Environment Texas

Kathleen Thompson
Executive Director, Progress Texas

Honorable Carolyn Arnold
Dallas Mayor Pro Tem

Honorable Tennell Atkins
Dallas City Councilman

Honorable Omar Narvaez
Dallas City Councilman

Honorable Rachel McGowan
Richardson ISD Trustee

Honorable Vanessa Pacheco
Richardson ISD Trustee

Honorable Shirley Daniels
Cedar Hill City Councilwoman

Harrison Blair
Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce President

Honorable Myrtis Evans
DCDP Precinct Chair

Honorable Joyce Foreman
Dallas ISD Trustee

Honorable David Griggs
Sierra Club Dallas Chair

Honorable Tracey Gulley
Dallas County Constable

Honorable Katy Hubener
Former JP and Downwinders at Risk Clean Air Activist

Honorable Sylvia Lagos
DCDP Precinct Chair

Honorable Katherine McGovern
DCDP Precinct Chair

Honorable Phyllis Arceneaux
DCDP Precinct Chair

Honorable Carol Donovan
Former DCDP Party Chair

Honorable Janice Schwarz
DCDP Precinct Chair

Honorable David Bradley
Former SDEC Member

Honorable Susan Bradley
SDEC Member

Iria Ganius
Teamsters Union Retirees Chair

Kimberley Mitchell
Dallas Area Rapid Transit Union Steward

Shelby Vance
CWA Local 6215 Secretary

Senada Rustic
Dallas Lions Club Director

Augustine Jalomo
City of Dallas Office of Arts & Culture Board of Directors

Honorable John Creuzot
Dallas County District Attorney

Honorable Craig Holcomb
President, Friends of Fair Park

Dr. Catalina E. Garcia
Dallas College Board Trustee

Elizabeth Ginsberg
Democratic Nominee '22 and Candidate '24 for House District 108

Honorable Martin Burrell
DCDP Precinct Chair

Marsha Jackson
Executive Director, Southern Sector Rising

Barbara Steele
Faith Outreach Leader

Honorable Jeff Strater
SDEC Member

Earnest Tilley
Executive VP, CWA Local Union 6215