

COALITION FOR
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE
* CONNECTING TEXANS *

February 17, 2017

Governor Greg Abbott
Lt. Governor Dan Patrick
Speaker Joe Straus
All Members, 85th Legislature

Dear Governor:

The Coalition for Critical Infrastructure (CCI) has been formed to help maintain Texas' positive business climate and quality of life by addressing our growing need for roads and highways; oil, natural gas and water pipelines; electric transmission and distribution lines; drainage and flood control; and other important infrastructure projects. CCI includes both public and private entities that help make Texas the 10th largest economy in the world, care about the future of Texas, and are dedicated to the state's ability to grow and prosper.

One of the important issues before the 85th Legislature involves potential changes to the process which authorized entities may use eminent domain to complete infrastructure projects for public use. This process must balance the rights of property owners without hindering infrastructure essential to millions of Texans. The Texas Constitution recognizes that the use of eminent domain to acquire property for infrastructure purposes benefits the citizenry, but is intended to be used only as a last resort. At the same time, we are aware that some property owners may feel disadvantaged when dealing with entities possessing such authority. This understanding guides our approach to addressing this issue.

As always, we pledge to work in good faith with property owners and the Legislature to strike this balance so that the process is transparent, efficient, and just. The Coalition strongly believes in a strong and durable framework that treats property owners respectfully and fairly, promotes the efficient and timely resolution of disputes, and strengthens long-term relationships between property owners and infrastructure development.

We recognize that there are some issues on which we may disagree. But that should not deter us from seeking areas of agreement and pursuing a constructive dialogue with all parties in which we can work out our differences. We look forward to working with you to identify best practices to improve the process. If you have any questions or need information, please contact one of us.

Regards,



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Executive Director
Texas Civil Justice League



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