URGENT ACTION!! NETWORK OF TEXAS IAF ORGANIZATIONS!!

Email your opposition to Comptroller Hegar’s proposal to gut reporting and accountability requirements for Chapter 313 by December 17th!

This past legislative session, Central Texas Interfaith and the Network of IAF Organizations, along with allies, killed the reauthorization of Texas’ largest corporate tax welfare program, Chapter 313, with bi-partisan opposition. This program gives companies 10-year school district tax breaks to large oil, gas, and manufacturing companies, paid for by state taxpayers. The program, which costs taxpayers over $1Billion annually, will end in December of 2022. However, we are seeing an explosion in the number of Chapter 313 applications in its final year, and these rule changes will only encourage more corporations to go after these 10-year tax giveaways which will continue for decades and cost tens of billions of dollars overall.

Even with chapter 313 ending, Texas Comptroller Glen Hegar is proposing to gut the reporting and accountability requirements of this failed program in its final year. The comptroller would change reporting rules code so corporations receiving Chapter 313 tax subsidies do not have to submit their biannual reports with their projected revenues and progress on their projects. The rule changes will also eliminate the central hub that taxpayers can check to see if businesses are delivering on the jobs, wages, and public benefits required in exchange for these incentives. For a full description of the harmful impact of these rule changes, see this blog post by Dick Lavine of Every Texan.

Before any policy can go into place, Comptroller Hegar must factor in public input. Please email your opposition to the proposed rule changes by December 17th to John Villarreal, Manager, Data Analysis and Transparency Division, Comptroller of Public Accounts, at John.Villarreal@cpa.texas.gov

We are asking you to tell the comptroller why you OPPOSE this change and how transparency matters.

You may send a simple message, such as:

“I am __________ with Central Texas Interfaith and the Texas IAF. I oppose Comptroller Hegar’s proposed rule change to Chapter 313 which would gut the reporting requirements for corporations receiving public tax subsidies. In the final year of this program, Taxpayers more than ever need transparency and access to vital information about the cost/benefits of these deals.”

We need to act now to ensure that this change DOES NOT go into effect!