



TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE  
*Empowering Texas cities to serve their citizens*

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President **David Rutledge**, Mayor, Bridge City  
Executive Director **Bennett Sandlin**

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Terry Canales  
Chairman, Texas House Transportation Committee  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768-2910

Dear Chairman Canales

I am writing on behalf of the Texas Municipal League to provide comments on **H.B. 2806**. We appreciate your intent to make it easier for billboard owners to relocate when the relocation is due to something outside of the owner's control. However, as currently drafted, we are concerned that the bill will prohibit cities from being able to consider critical factors necessary to ensure driver safety and promote current and future land use development and growth.

As drafted, H.B. 2806 would require state and local governments to allow the relocation of a billboard to any location within the city if it is at least 660 feet from the nearest right-of-way. The governmental entities could not consider important public safety concerns like height and brightness. Nor could they evaluate the impact of the new location on nearby properties or future land use and development plans.

H.B. 2806 would also grant a billboard owner unfettered use of public tax dollars by requiring that a local governmental entity pays for, but has no say in, all related land acquisition and relocation costs. A billboard owner could choose any relocation location at any price and be reimbursed by city taxpayers. And in the event that the governmental entity does not need to acquire the property on which the billboard was originally located as part of the project, the owner could relocate to a new site at no cost, while still maintaining ownership of the original location.

Lastly, H.B. 2806 would prevent state and local governments from applying updated regulations to any existing billboards. So, as billboard technology continues to expand, state and local governments could not effectively apply new regulations based on new technology to address significant public safety concerns, including height, brightness, face size, and spacing. These regulations are necessary to protect drivers and nearby property owners alike.

To properly balance billboard owners' needs with real public safety concerns, we'd ask you to consider amending the bill to allow for the application of reasonable land use regulations that promote fairness for the billboard owner and general public alike. We are concerned that H.B.

2806, as currently drafted, substantially restricts the state and local governments' ability to enforce and adopt reasonable billboard-related regulations to ensure driver visibility, protect against distracted driving, and promote thoughtful and deliberate land use and development.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose H.B. 2806 at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty Wynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Monty Wynn  
*Director, Grassroots and Legislative Services*  
*Texas Municipal League*