



**Resolution
to Oppose Texas 87th Legislative
Senate Bill 234 and House Bill 749**



WHEREAS, Senate Bill 234 and House Bill 749 filed in the 87th Texas Legislature would prohibit county funds from being used to join and support nonprofit county associations that provide valuable research and collective communication to state legislators; and

WHEREAS, "taxpayer funded" lobbying by local governments accounts for less than 10% of total lobbying activity in each legislative session, while corporate and special interest lobbying interests make up 90% of total lobbying activity to our Texas legislators; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Texas counties do not engage private lobbyists and instead only provide a minimal portion of membership dues to nonprofit county associations for the purposes of legislative research, communication, and prevent new tax mandates on the citizens of our counties; and

WHEREAS, in the Texas 85th and 86th legislative session there were over 10,000 bills filed each session and in the in the Texas 87th legislative session there were over 7,000 bills filed and rural and smaller counties especially need to be able to combine their resources through their associations to monitor these thousands of bills filed each legislative session and effectively present their unique issues to the state and federal government; and

WHEREAS, it is a false claim that taxpayer funded lobbying works against the interest of taxpayers. Indeed, a priority of county government and its "lobbying" effort with our Texas legislator is focused on ending the state and federal practice of passing unfunded mandates, which impose billions of dollars in increased taxes upon local property taxpayers annually; and

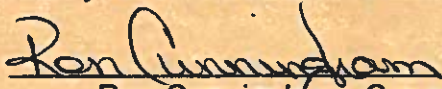
WHEREAS, the State of Texas, the Texas Legislature, and state agencies consistently and actively employ large numbers of state taxpayer funded lobbyists to analyze and monitor the thousands of bills filed each legislative session and further utilize these same lobbyists to advocate for its interests in Washington D.C., yet S.B. 234/ H.B. 749 would deny local communities this same ability while continuing public support of state agency lobbying; and

WHEREAS, prohibiting Texas counties from retaining experienced representation before federal and state legislative bodies and agencies would place our communities and citizens at a disadvantage in efforts to obtain and retain federal and state projects; and


WHEREAS, county officials require the ability to express our positions and information through associations, thereby establishing a stronger unified voice on the issues important to our communities, and share the associated costs among all counties; and

WHEREAS, the prohibitions on county governments in S.B. 234/H.B.749 would violate the basic principle of open and robust discussion and would further the transformation of the halls and offices of our Texas capitol into even more of special interest group dominated legislation each session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned officials of Llano County do hereby express their opposition to S.B. 234/H.B. 749 and its attempt to silence the combined voices of the county officials and local communities of this state.



Ron Cunningham, County Judge



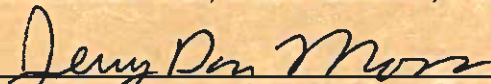
Peter Jones, Commissioner, Pct #1

Absent


Linda Raschke, Commissioner, Pct #2



Mike Sandoval, Commissioner, Pct #3



Jerry Don Moss, Commission, Pct #4

Attest: 

Marci Hadeler, County Clerk