



August 4, 2017

The Honorable Donna Campbell
Texas State Senator
The Honorable Dan Huberty
Texas State Representative

Subject: Senate Bill 6, House Bill 6

Dear Senator Campbell and Representative Huberty,

We thank you for the incredible effort and time that you and your staffs have given throughout this 85th Legislative Session and in particular, the current special session. We are writing to you to express our interests and concerns regarding the proposed annexation reform legislation being considered and appreciate the importance of improving current annexation policies. Our concerns center around the language that relates to Texas Military installations and the potential impacts of this legislation on one of our State's greatest assets and economic development drivers.

We understand and support improvements to the current codes but ask each of you and the committees you represent to consider the implications of this legislation on the future growth of our military bases. In several, indeed, most of the communities that are co-located with military bases, annexation, if not properly managed, could irreparably harm the future of those installations and the economic impact they have on their neighboring communities and the economy of Texas overall.

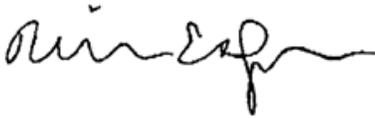
In your proposed legislation, you propose either a ¼ mile or ½ mile buffer as a measure to insulate the neighboring installations from potential encroachment issues. However, in many areas, that buffer is simply insufficient to protect the missions of those bases. The most glaring example is an air station where pilot training and mission testing require special considerations because of the possible interference to flight instrumentations and critical communications networks. This is evident in Fort Worth at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, where wind turbines and other commercial enterprises already create challenges.

Fort Bliss, Texas, with its headquarters facilities located in the center of El Paso, is the largest military installation in the United States by area, and is considered the premier testing and training facility for the Army. Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range, together with their Air Force counterparts at Holloman Air Force Base, are utilized for numerous critical mission sets throughout the year, many of which can only be conducted on an installation that is larger than the state of Rhode Island.

Chairman Roland Gutierrez, is proposing a buffer of five miles, which we believe will help to mitigate any potential risks to these missions. We strongly encourage you to consider modifying the language in your proposed bills to address these concerns. The future of our state's military and defense industries could well be in the balance. A number of our colleagues across the state have already reached out to each of you to express similar concerns.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss our concerns with you and, if needed, to provide testimony to address them.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard E. Dayoub". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Richard E. Dayoub
President and CEO

Cy: Governor Greg Abbott
Mayor of El Paso, Mr. Dee Margo