



No on HB 5

DON'T BRING BACK CHAPTER 313



DIVERSION OF RESOURCES FROM PUBLIC EDUCATION

HB 5 would vastly expand the categories of eligible projects, add expansion projects and not just new facilities to those eligible, increase the size of a corporation's tax break, and result in expanding costs to taxpayers and the program's inequitable impact among ISD's.

EXCLUDES RENEWABLES

Though the committee substitute for HB 5 would allow for certain types of energy storage projects to qualify, renewable energy resources have been intentionally left out in favor of polluting fossil fuel projects, creating another unfair market advantage.

UNSUSTAINABLE FISCAL POLICY

HB 5 does nothing to address the unfair burden placed on ordinary taxpayers and other businesses that do not receive these public subsidies. Further, HB 5 has a sunset date that doesn't come up until 2036.

INEFFECTIVE AND WASTEFUL PROGRAM

HB 5 continues Chapter 313's low-threshold of only asking companies to state that the tax break is "a determining factor" (among other factors) in building the project, rather than certifying that they could not otherwise build the project without the incentive (a strict "but-for" requirement).

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

HB 5 inexplicably shortens the period of public discussion to 35 days from the time the Comptroller recommends the project to the school board approval of the project, does nothing to address the cottage industry of consultants, and waters down the already weak job creation and wage requirements that existed in Chapter 313.

Organizations opposing HB 5: BetterBrazoria, Central Texas Interfaith Interfaith, CHISPA, COPS Metro, Dallas Area Interfaith, Environmental Defense Fund, EPISO and Border Interfaith, EveryTexan, Friends of the Wildlife Corridor, ICAN, Public Citizen, SaveRGV, Sierra Club. South Texas Human Rights Center. Texas AFL-CIO, Texas AFT, Texas Campaign for the Environment. Texas Public Interest Research Group, Texas State Teachers Association, The Border Organization, The Metropolitan Organization, The West Texas Organizing Strategy, Valley Interfaith