



STATE OF TEXAS

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December 6, 2016

Commissioner Chase Untermeyer
Chairman, Texas Ethics Commission
201 East 14th Street, 10th Floor
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Commissioner Untermeyer:

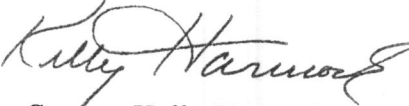
It has come to our attention that the Texas Ethics Commission will consider a proposed rule at its December 8, 2016 meeting that would raise the legislative per diem allotment from \$190 to the maximum Internal Revenue Service permissible rate of \$217 per day.

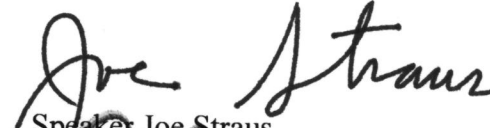

We write to request that the legislative per diem reimbursement rate *not* be increased.

The State of Texas is preparing for a tightened budget in the upcoming biennium, and agencies were asked to reduce their base appropriation levels by four percent accordingly. Texas taxpayers expect their dollars to be spent with the highest degree of discretion and fiscal responsibility. Simply put, legislators don't need a pay raise.

Sincerely,


Lt. Governor Dan Patrick


Senator Kelly Hancock
Chairman, Senate Administration


Speaker Joe Straus

Representative Charlie Geren
Chairman, House Administration

cc: Commissioners, Texas Ethics Commission
Executive Director, Texas Ethics Commission