



June 18, 2009

**Chairman**  
Judge  
Mike Bradford  
*Midland County*

**Chair Elect**  
Commissioner  
Mike Cantrell  
*Dallas County*

**Immediate Past Chair**  
Judge  
Glen Whitley  
*Tarrant County*

**Vice-Chairmen**  
Comm. Tommy Adkisson  
*Bexar County*  
Comm. Sylvia Garcia  
*Harris County*  
Comm. Andy Meyers  
*Fort Bend County*  
Comm. Jay Millikin  
*Comal County*  
Judge J.D. Salinas  
*Hidalgo County*

**Executive Director**  
Donald Lee

**Member Counties**  
Bell ~ Bexar  
Brazoria ~ Brazos  
Cameron ~ Chambers  
Collin ~ Comal  
Dallas ~ Denton  
El Paso ~ Ellis  
Fort Bend ~ Galveston  
Grayson ~ Gregg  
Guadalupe ~ Harris  
Hays ~ Hidalgo  
Hunt ~ Jefferson  
Johnson ~ Kaufman  
Lubbock ~ McLennan  
Midland ~ Nueces  
Randall ~ Rockwall  
San Patricio ~ Tarrant  
Travis ~ Williamson  
Wise

500 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, TX 78701

Phone: 512.476.6174  
Fax: 512.476.5122

[www.cuc.org](http://www.cuc.org)

Honorable Rick Perry  
Texas Governor  
Governor's Office  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

**Re: Support for HB 3485 by Coleman/West, the County Efficiency Act**

Dear Governor Perry:

The Texas Conference of Urban Counties respectfully requests that you sign House Bill 3485 by Representative Coleman and Senator West. This bill will provide efficiency and reduce some of the costs related to providing government services.

We are aware that some in the medical community are expressing concern about a provision related to rural county hospital districts. They are stating the provision damages the principles of tort reform and governmental immunity that county officials share with you. We are convinced this concern is misplaced and stems from a failure to accurately interpret the provision.

The hospital district provision provides rural hospital districts a tool for providing health care at the lowest possible tax cost. This concept is the heart of HB 3485 – saving taxpayers money.

The most important thing government must do for taxpayers is to manage the day-to-day affairs of providing services in the most efficient, effective and accountable manner that is reasonably possible. HB 3485 contains many provisions important to that goal. More than any other possible initiative – it is this careful attention to the details of government that truly benefits taxpayers. Losing all of the benefits to taxpayers in HB 3485 due to a gross misinterpretation of one provision would be a travesty for taxpayers.

Some of the provisions in HB 3485 that will save taxpayer money include the following:

- Allows warrants to be transmitted by secure fax or secure electronic mail, which will reduce paperwork and administrative time;

Honorable Rick Perry

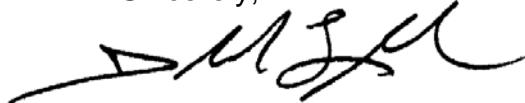
June 18, 2009

Page 2 of 2

- Allows electronic payment methods for jurors, which will speed payment and reduce staff time and paperwork in cutting checks;
- Permits the cremation of an unidentified pauper's remains, which is an unfortunate but real need in some of the border counties;
- Permits the use of video teleconferencing system for grand jury proceedings, which can reduce travel time for expert witnesses and law enforcement officers, resulting in a savings for the county; and
- Updates the statute on automatic payroll deductions to permit a county-maintained automated payroll system to be used to process payroll deductions, resulting in reduced administrative costs.

Thank you in advance for your leadership and consideration of the needs of counties and county taxpayers.

Sincerely,



Donald Lee  
Executive Director