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June 18, 2025

The Honorable Greg Abbott

Governor of Texas

P.O. Box 12428

Austin, TX 78711

Re: Committee Substitute House Bill 143 by Representative Ken King/Senator Kelly Hancock  
and Committee Substitute House Bill 144 by Representative Ken King/Senator Charles  
Schwertner

Dear Governor Abbott,

On behalf of the Texas Land & Mineral Owners Association (TLMA), I write to express our strong support for CSHB 143 by Representative King and Senator Hancock and CSHB 144 by Representative King and Senator Schwertner.

TLMA is a statewide advocacy organization representing more than 600 land, mineral, and royalty owners across all 254 Texas counties. Our members collectively own millions of surface and subsurface acres. We are committed to protecting their property rights while ensuring Texas maintains a strong and responsible energy sector.

The 2024 Panhandle Wildfires caused devastating losses for many of our members—including livestock, fencing, and grazing lands stewarded by their families for generations. While several factors contributed to the fires, TLMA believes that preventative measures like those outlined in CSHB 143 and CSHB 144 are essential to minimizing future risks.

CSHB 143 codifies a memorandum of understanding between the Railroad Commission and the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) following findings from the Investigative Committee on the Panhandle Wildfires, established by then-Speaker Dade Phelan. The bill creates a clear process for landowners to report electrical hazards at well pad sites, and it establishes formal procedures for interagency response and resolution.

Most importantly, CSHB 143:

- Sets firm timelines for inspections, corrective actions, and landowner notifications;
- Requires improved communication between the Railroad Commission and PUC—an issue specifically cited in the wildfire report;

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# TEXAS LAND & MINERAL OWNERS ASSOCIATION

- Allows for termination of electric service in critical cases, providing a vital tool for wildfire prevention.

This legislation is especially significant because it finally gives landowners a clear voice and formal standing in matters involving oil and gas infrastructure. As severances between surface and mineral estates become more common, it is often the surface owner, not the royalty recipient, who first observes unsafe conditions on the ground.

CSHB 144 requires electric service providers to develop and submit inspection and maintenance plans for utility poles to the PUC. The bill offers clear guidance on the content of these plans and PUC action.

Together with CSHB 2663 by Representative Drew Darby, which you have already signed, CSHB 143 and CSHB 144 represent meaningful steps forward in protecting both Texas property and the integrity of our oil and gas industry.

We firmly believe that these reforms will not hinder energy development but will instead support a more resilient, responsible industry, one that strengthens the “Texas Miracle” by safeguarding its foundation: our land.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this legislation further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Owen  
Executive Director  
Texas Land & Mineral Owners Association