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April 25, 2018

Sunset Advisory Commission
PO Box 13066
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Support for continued mission of the Texas Historical Commission

Dear Senator Birdwell,

Founded in 1953 as the Heritage Society of Austin, Preservation Austin is a not-for-profit organization with nearly 1,000 members. Our mission is to protect the diverse architectural and cultural heritage of the greater Austin community. Our Board of Directors, which is made up of leaders in the historic preservation, history, development, real estate and business communities strongly support the continued mission of the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

Our organization, along with other local preservation entities, and city, county and state agencies across Texas, rely on the expertise, guidance and resources of the THC to be able to carry out our collective efforts to protect and preserve Texas' heritage.

The agency works in partnership with individuals and organizations such as ours on a variety of programs, including State and Federal Tax Credits, historical designations, heritage tourism, education, Sec. 106 review, and erection of State Historical Markers. It is because of the importance of this partnership that our board members are at the Capitol each legislative session supporting adequate funding and staffing for the THC, and opposing any legislation that would hinder their ability to effectively and expertly carry out their important mission work to in cooperation with local partners to use real places to tell real stories.

The staff and management of the THC consistently provide a level of customer service to our organization and others that is professional, knowledgeable and collegial. They are viewed across the state as the experts in historical research and preservation, and serve as the unifying umbrella organization for state-wide and local preservation activities.

The Preservation Austin Board of Directors supports the continued mission of the Texas Historical Commission and respectfully ask that the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission vote favorably regarding the need and performance of the THC.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "K" and a trailing flourish.

Ken Johnson
President, Preservation Austin

Cc:
Members of the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
John Nau, Chairman, Texas Historical Commission
Mark Wolfe, Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission