



American Planning Association
Texas Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

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HB 4285

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Thank you, Chairman Burns, for the opportunity to present information related to House Bill 4285. My name is **Andrew Mack**, and I am here on behalf of the American Planning Association - Texas Chapter (APA Texas) to testify in **opposition to Senate Bill 4285 as written**. APA Texas is an association of public and private sector planners that help manage growth and plan for development in Texas.

The intent of this bill makes sense to us but there are impacts outdoor signs can have on communities that we feel have not been adequately considered.

This bill conflicts with the Texas Highway Beautification Act, which has, for many years, sought to preserve scenic Texas Highways as a vital asset to the culture of our state. Many cities throughout our State, such as Grapevine, Victoria, Denison and Tyler have been deemed Texas Certified Cities because of their commitment to the preservation of scenic highways in Texas. This program has been in place since the 1960s and we even have the Texas Highways magazine as a testament to the importance of scenic corridors in Texas. Considering all of the efforts to conserve Texas highways, it seems counterproductive to eliminate oversight in these corridors of interest.

Another concern we have is that unrestricted outdoor signs can create light trespass for dark sky communities. We would request that a provision be added that all outdoor signs in a dark sky certified city and their ETJ have to comply with the dark sky requirements.

APATX works closely with the people that are designing, regulating and developing projects all over our state. Land use and development are our core areas of expertise. Our members stand ready to assist you with this legislation. I thank you for your time and welcome any questions you might have.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Mack
American Planning Association - Texas Chapter

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