

January 21, 2022

The Honorable Brian Birdwell
State Senator, District 22
Texas Senate
Capitol Building, Room E1.804
Austin, TX 78701

Re: Comments on Proposed Amendments, 34 TAC § 9.1051, § 9.1052, Limitation on Appraised Value on Certain Qualified Properties (46 Tex Reg 7866) (Nov. 19, 2021)

Dear Senator Birdwell,

Thank you for your comments on the proposed rule changes to the Chapter 313 program. We have received and recorded your remarks. As a part of the rulemaking process, my office will provide a written response to all questions received on the proposed rule change at the end of the comment period.

The proposed rule change is the beginning of a conversation on how to administer an inactive program while acknowledging that many of the agreements in the program will continue to be active for years to come. The agency is committed to providing the legislature and the public the information they need to make informed decisions regarding the manner in which tax dollars are spent.

Please let us know if you have additional questions. Thank you for reaching out to my office on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Glenn Hegar



Senator Brian Birdwell
Chair
Senator Judith Zaffirini
Vice Chair
Senator Carol Alvarado
Senator Kelly Hancock



Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa
Senator Bryan Hughes
Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst
Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.
Senator Kel Seliger

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

January 7, 2022

The Honorable Glenn Hegar
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
P.O. Box 13528, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-3528

RE: Proposed rule changes for 34 TAC §9.1051 and §9.1052, Chapter 313 transparency and reporting requirements

Dear Comptroller Hegar,

I write to request your consideration in withdrawing or otherwise not adopting the above referenced proposed rules regarding Texas Tax Code Chapter 313 transparency and reporting requirements.

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development, I continue to dedicate significant time and effort towards securing and improving transparency measures on behalf of both my constituents and Texans as a whole. While I understand and support the need for efficient and conservative government practices in our agencies, I must also stress the consistent need for taxpayers to have readily available access to information surrounding Chapter 313 agreements. As the program approaches the expiration date of December 31, 2022, reporting requirements and the accompanying details, as well as the central hosting of these details with the Comptroller's office, remain crucial. Among the reasons this data remains important are the long length and significant fiscal implications of these agreements, as well as the valuable information they can provide for statistical and programmatic analysis for future legislatures. The current transparency measures and accompanying information are not only useful to legislators and stakeholders, but remain crucial to Texas taxpayers that deserve to readily trace each dollar associated with these agreements.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office, or myself, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Birdwell".

Brian Birdwell
State Senator, Senate District 22
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development, Chair

Cc: The Honorable Judith Zaffirini,



The Honorable Carol Alvarado,
The Honorable Kelly Hancock,
The Honorable Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa,
The Honorable Bryan Hughes,
The Honorable Lois W. Kolkhorst,
The Honorable Eddie Lucio, Jr.,
The Honorable Kel Seliger

From: [Nikki Cobb](#)
To: [ECSM](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Rule Changes - Ch. 313
Date: Friday, January 7, 2022 5:05:34 PM
Attachments: [Final Comptroller 313 Rule Change Proposals 1.7.22.pdf](#)

We should expect a hard copy soon, but routing anyway.

From: JW Galloway <JW.Galloway@senate.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 3:21 PM
To: Nikki Cobb <Nikki.Cobb@cpa.texas.gov>
Subject: Proposed Rule Changes - Ch. 313

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content is safe.

Hey Nikki,

We just put a hard copy of this in the mail, but I wanted to make sure you got a copy too. The Senator has some issues with the proposed rule changes and wanted to send a letter to Comptroller Hegar with his concerns. Please let me know if y'all have any questions. My cell is 512.426.0936 if you need to reach me as well.

Best,

JW Galloway

Committee Director

Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee

Senator Brian Birdwell, Chair

512.463.0390 office

JW.Galloway@senate.texas.gov