DON HUFFINES
TEXAS COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

November 16, 2026

Senator Sarah Eckhardt
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Senator Eckhardt,

Having received your Nov. 9 letter requesting control of this agency, I must remind you that the Texas Constitution provides for one Comptroller of Public Accounts to be in office at a time, and until Jan. 1, 2027, I hold that office, with sole authority over this agency and full responsibility for it. Your demand to wield its authority came before the election's certification, and long before the Constitution gives you any role. I will fulfill my constitutional obligations to Texans until my last day and put all Texans first: to audit government at every level, to end unlawful taxes, and to expose corruption. This is the most important and most complex constitutional agency in Texas, and it is vital that it runs smoothly. Any disruption to my team members or agency operations will be treated with the seriousness it deserves.

Your demand that I "cease pursuit of rule changes initiated since Aug. 1, 2026" is a demand to kill the Taxpayer First Project and every reform in it. I will not suspend rulemaking. Why do you want me to pull back rules that give Texans back more of their own money and repeal the illegitimate and unlawful interpretations of the Tax Code that the Legislature never voted on? These reforms repeal the tax on Texans' medical records, which lowers the cost of healthcare. They end the double tax that hits small businesses and gig workers twice on the same marketplace transaction. They ban spy cameras from our grants and contracts, so taxpayer dollars never fund the surveillance of law-abiding Texans. And the Texas FIRST (Fraud Investigation and Recovery Strike Team) is investigating fraud and corruption and recovering stolen tax dollars, regardless of party.

Since I was willing to work with you to achieve a constructive transition, I was very disappointed to read a letter showing such emotional contempt for the Texas Constitution and Texas taxpayers. You insisted that the only time you could meet in the coming weeks is a single two-hour window, Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to noon, despite the other dates I offered when I could be present. As I made clear, I and much of my executive team are unavailable at that time due to scheduling conflicts. I have therefore arranged for members of our government relations team to meet with you at that time and provide a guided tour of the facilities. While I had hoped to welcome you to the agency personally, I am confident the Nov. 18 meeting will be informative and productive.

Until my final day as Comptroller, the agenda will not change: Texans first, taxpayers first. I take no state salary, pension, or perks, because the money belongs to the people, not the government.

Sincerely,

Don Huffines
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts