



TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

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President **Todd Pearson**, Mayor, Rockport  
Executive Director **Frank Sturzl**

August 12, 2008

The Honorable John Carona  
Senate Committee on Transportation and  
Homeland Security  
P.O. Box 12068 - Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711-2068

Dear Chairman Carona:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on the Committee's interim charge related to state and local regulation of billboards.

Signs pose very distinct problems within cities and their extraterritorial jurisdictions. Since billboards take up space, they may obstruct views, distract motorists, preclude alternative uses of land, create visual blight, and pose other problems that legitimately call for city regulation. We believe local elected officials are best equipped to make decisions regarding the location, placement, and other regulations of signs.

The Texas Municipal League (TML) opposes any erosion of current municipal authority over billboards or the imposition on cities of any unfunded mandates relating to billboards.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact me if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Sturzl", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Frank Sturzl