



March 23, 2015

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

As leaders of non-profit and community based organizations across Texas, we are writing you today in support of the current franchised motor vehicle system in Texas. Simply put, the franchised dealer system protects consumers and the local franchised dealers invest in our communities.

The average franchised dealer in Texas donates over \$40,000 in charitable contributions annually. With a local dealer in **284 cities** in our great state that is an average annual impact of \$174,414 per city. And, this is just an average. Look around most Texas communities and you will see the charitable impact of the local dealers everywhere. In fact, some dealers donate even more with the most notable dealer donating more than \$6.5 Million to his local community every year. It's also important to note that many dealers offer employee matching funds to encourage their employees charitable giving but the numbers above do not reflect that additional important community impact.

In addition to critical financial support, dealers donate time; a tremendous amount of time. For the average year, dealers and their employees collectively donate more than 135,000 volunteer hours. The average community containing a franchised dealership benefits from 478 volunteer hours. Dealers make it easy for their employees to donate their time or treasure and we, as non-profit leaders across the State, cannot overstate the importance of their support.

Dealers and their employees also serve on local boards of non-profit and community organizations. More than 70% of Texas franchised dealers have employees serving on local boards for schools, churches and little leagues. Local Texas communities thrive under their leadership and generosity.

We understand that Tesla has been seeking a special exemption from the motor vehicle franchise laws in Texas. We hope you will pause and consider the effect this special exception could have on Texas communities. Franchised dealers prevent monopolies and promote competition in pricing and service to the customer. Franchised dealers are often the backbone



of our communities. We caution against taking any action that would allow a California based corporation a special exception to a law that is working for Texas and Texans.

As the legislative session continues and the rhetoric heats up, please do not forget to consider the greater impact of the requested Tesla special exception.

Sincerely,

Glenn Cochran  
President | CEO  
*Lubbock Area United Way*

Lynne Sipiora  
Executive Director  
*The Samaritan Inn, McKinney*

Dan Rogers  
President of Boerne  
*Kendall County Economic  
Development Foundation*

Terry Johnson  
Executive Director  
*Hunt for Heroes, Midland*

Elise Hough  
CEO  
*Easter Seals Houston*

David Carr  
Superintendent  
*Stanton ISD*

Cruz Mendez  
Vice Chairman  
*Ambucs of Longview*

Tami Baker  
Chair  
*100 Club of Central Texas, Austin*

Marilyn Willson  
Development Director  
*The Settlement Home for Children,  
Austin*

Lyndon Herridge  
President | CEO  
*United Way of San Antonio and Bexar  
County*