

House District 73

September 13th, 2018

Commissioner George P. Bush 1700 N. Congress Ave., Suite 935 Austin, TX 78701-1495

Dear Commissioner Bush,

We believe it imperative that you engage the Texas Legislature in the negotiations related to the management structure of the Alamo Outdoor Museum/Historic Mission Footprint in order to ensure Texas sovereignty over the future of the Alamo.

In the years since 2011, when the Legislature began the process of transitioning the management of the Alamo, the State of Texas has provided more than \$100 million in funding for these efforts. This was in addition to the much needed improvements provided to better tell the story of Texas Independence. We would hate to see the Legislature's financial commitment to the Alamo dissolve if this Alamo Master Plan is approved as is.

When the Legislature shifted the management of the Alamo in 2011 to the General Land Office, the Legislature's intent was to ensure preservation of the Alamo grounds into perpetuity. While there is much in the current Alamo Plan that we all agree with and want to expedite, we have grave concerns as Legislators.

The most startling point of concern is the long-term lease agreement with the City of San Antonio giving them the "ability to monitor compliance" and the requirement in that lease that the GLO must prioritize "the World Heritage Site nomination and designation" of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). At our meeting, you strongly condemned this wording and stated that you would not sign it if it was part of the conditions of the lease.

Commissioner, as Texans, we should not allow an international body to impose on our most sacred of sites or sanitize our history. Texas is proud and independent. Our story must remain free from international revision.

Sadly, the current language of the Alamo Plan would subject Texas to UNESCO's interpretation of our history, by ensuring the final Alamo Project "not jeopardize the process and potential [World Heritage Site] designation". While the City of San Antonio is eager to welcome a World Heritage Site designation, we must not place our sacred Alamo and the Cenotaph on the chopping block of political correctness. We hope that you agree.

With your signature, the current Alamo Plan will also move the Cenotaph into the 'Free Speech Area' where it cannot be protected and will be open to protest and disrespect. We are deeply troubled knowing the Tomb of the Alamo defenders, the Cenotaph, will be moved 500 ft away and outside the Alamo walls. This is simply not acceptable.

We appreciate your public commitment to work with the Texas State Legislature on our shared concerns about the Alamo Master Plan. We also applaud your strong and recent statement condemning political correctness concerning The Alamo story in the Texas social studies school curriculum. That said, words are one thing, and actions are another.

The current long-term lease language in the Alamo Plan must not be in the final draft. The sanctity of the Alamo, the protection of the Cenotaph and the torch of Texas History rests in your hands. Please stand firm.

Respectfully,

Kyle Biedermann

State Representative, District 73

Rep. Cole Hefner House District 5

Rep. Mike Lang House District 60

Rep. Tony Tinderholt House District 94

Rep. Briscoe Cain House District 128

Rep. Térry Wilson House District 20

6. Jonathan Stickland **House District 92**

Rep. Bill Zedler House District 96

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House District 150