

AGENDA ITEM 20

Consider approving a resolution supporting Federal Intergovernmental Relations Program by Texas Conference of Urban Counties including increase of dues to fund.

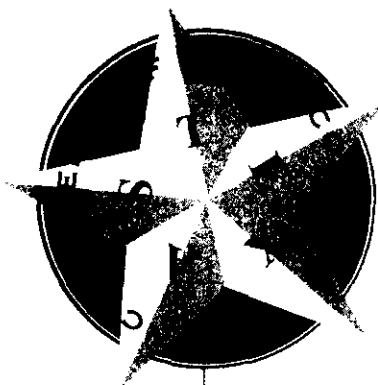
Moved: **Commissioner Limmer**

Seconded: **Commissioner Heiligenstein**

Motion: To approve a resolution supporting Federal Intergovernmental Relations Program by Texas Conference of Urban Counties including increase of dues to fund, noting that the court will be notified of the cost for participation, and a final decision will be made by the court regarding participation after the notice is received.

Vote: 5 - 0

< Attachment >



September 27, 2001

Honorable John Doerfler
County Judge
Williamson County
Williamson County Courthouse, 2nd Floor
Georgetown, TX 78626

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Conference of
Urban Counties

Re: **Proposal for the Williamson County Commissioners Court on Whether to Extend Urban Counties Intergovernmental Relations Efforts to Include Federal Issues**

Dear Judge Doerfler:

Currently, the Texas Conference of Urban Counties does not involve itself in Federal issues or attempt to communicate with Congress or Federal agencies. Our efforts are focused solely within Texas.

The Urban Counties have discussed the possibility of extending our efforts to include Federal issues. Many members have requested such expansion, and the Board of Directors was asked to develop a proposal for an optional program in which member counties could opt to participate. A proposal was presented to the Urban County membership during luncheons held on June 7, 2001 and August 16, 2001. At the August 16, 2001 luncheon, the membership approved a recommendation to ask each individual member county to consider whether or not it wanted the Urban Counties to extend efforts to include Federal Issues.

The Board of Directors requests you to consider the attached draft resolution expressing support for the expansion of Urban Counties' services to Federal issues. The resolution identifies a number of issues that might be worked on, including: Medicaid and Disproportionate Share Hospital funding, State Alien Assistance funding for county jails, election reform, and increased transportation funding for all of Texas. The actual issues that would be worked on will be developed by the Urban County committee process that you are used to. As always, the Urban Counties would be careful to promote the positions and policies that we all share in common, and avoid issues and policies where a consensus does not exist.

After giving this resolution consideration, please either forward a copy of the adopted resolution to the Urban Counties offices, or notify us that your county has decided not to support the proposal. After we receive responses from member counties, the following will happen:

1. If less than half of the membership (by population) adopts the resolution, then the program will not be pursued.
2. If more than half of the counties (by population) adopt the resolution indicating support, then the Federal IGR Program will be pursued with only those counties opting in to the program appointing members to a Federal IGR Committee to establish policy and provide direction for the program. A special per capita dues assessment will be added to participating counties 2002 dues to pay for the program. The amount will be in the range reflected in schedule A, and be determined by the number of counties participating.
3. If more than 90% of the counties (by population) adopt the resolution indicating support, then the Federal IGR Program will be pursued on