



April 2, 2025

To: House Committee on Natural Resources
Re: Testimony FOR House Bill 16

Good morning, Chairman Harris, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Justin Yancy, president of the Texas Business Leadership Council here to testify in favor of HB 16. The TBLC is a statewide network of CEOs and senior executives working to build a more globally competitive Texas. For Texas to remain and become more globally competitive, decisive action on our water supply and infrastructure challenges must be taken.

At present, the state has over \$200 billion in unmet water needs including an estimated \$80 billion in new water supply projects reflected in the 2022 State Water Plan. Without the decisive action called for in HB 16, Texas faces a projected \$153 billion in annual economic losses and 1.4 million lost jobs by 2070 due to water shortages.

As laid out in our most recent policy paper, which I've provided to the Committee, Texas continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, with -by new estimates- over 1,500 new residents arriving daily. By 2070, our population is expected to increase by 73%.

When we're talking about this growth, we're not only talking about more people, but many more jobs represented by many more companies moving and expanding in our state. We are exceedingly grateful to have this job growth, but these companies will require more water. To be clear, we very much want these world class, innovative companies to continue moving to and investing in Texas. To do so, as a state, we have got to increase our investment in water.

This Legislature can make a generational investment that will protect our economic future by allocating **\$5 billion** to jumpstart critical water projects AND by establishing a **dedicated, sustainable funding source** to ensure long-term stability.

In this area, we are grateful for your leadership and for Governor Abbott making this one of his emergency items and calling for a Texas-Sized investment in water.

Water is foundational to our lives and economy. Without sufficient supply, businesses cannot grow, communities cannot thrive, and Texas risks losing its competitive edge. On behalf of the TBLC, I want to thank you for the leadership that each of you provides to the great State of Texas.