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## **TBLC Champions Education, Workforce, and a Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity for an Investment in Water Supply**

AUSTIN – As the 89th meeting of the Texas Legislature gavels in today, Texas Business Leadership Council President Justin Yancy issued the following statement:

"The Texas Business Leadership Council (TBLC) looks forward to working with legislative and executive leadership to provide a united voice from employers on a number of issues that we believe Texas must continuously improve upon if we are to remain globally competitive. Chief among these matters for the TBLC are innovative solutions and investments in water supply and infrastructure."

Yancy continued, "Texas will not continue to be the best place to do business if we don't have sufficient water supply. With a projected budget surplus of \$24B, we are presented with the opportunity to make a once-in-a-generation investment in water. It is very unlikely that our state will continue to have the historic budget surpluses we've seen at the start of the last two sessions, and we must act now to ensure a bright economic future for decades to come."

The TBLC released its [priorities](#) for the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislature last week, with education and workforce policy goals focused on strategic investments in data-driven practices to improve student outcomes; bolstering the development and retention of effective teachers; improving early learning; and maximizing postsecondary access and completion aligned with workforce needs, to name a few.

"With AI and automation, the jobs of the future are predicted to require a more skilled workforce. The 89<sup>th</sup> Legislature has the opportunity to better prepare students for lifetime success starting with investing in pre-K to improve school readiness, adopting strategies to strengthen foundational skills in math and reading, and supporting educators to keep our best teachers in the classroom all of which will lead to improved postsecondary readiness," stated TBLC Vice President of Policy Kelle Kieschnick. "And Texas must sustain our investment in outcomes-based funding for community colleges that incentivizes a focus on credential of value attainment in high-demand fields."

*The Texas Business Leadership Council is a network of Texas based CEOs and senior business executives who advance a long-term vision of a prosperous Texas in a globally competitive business environment.*

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