



February 20, 2025

Governor Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX. 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

I write today to express my support for transferring the University of Houston-Victoria (UH-V) from the University of Houston System umbrella to the Texas A&M University System. I have a unique perspective on this possible transfer due to my personal connection to both institutions. Receiving the Inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award from Texas A&M University-San Antonio, where I earned my MBA, to delivering the commencement address for UH-V graduates, and receiving the UH-V Young Alumnus of the Year award in 2018 underscores my commitment to this issue.

Since its establishment in 1973, UH-V has been an important part of our community in many ways. In opening the doors to a quality four-year degree for residents of Victoria County and our region, it has also partnered closely with our beloved junior college, Victoria College. UH-V has unlocked higher education opportunities for countless residents, including myself and my Father - who also earned a degree there in the 1970s. The impact of all this over the years cannot be measured merely in dollars or in enhancing education for our local workforce, as its impact has been far more expansive than that.

As it has grown clearer that the University of Houston System is increasingly focusing its attention and resources on the Greater Houston area, our community has had many discussions concerning the future direction of UH-V. Should it become advisable to transfer the UH-V campus in Victoria to another public university system, I want to lend my voice to those supporting its move into the Texas A&M University System. The transfer could bring significant benefits such as increased funding, robust economic benefits to our part of Texas, expanded academic programs, and a more substantial regional presence. In addition, the culture and traditions of Texas A&M are a perfect fit in Victoria and our region. We need only look about 90 miles to the South here to see the tremendous impact that Texas A&M has made over time in Corpus Christi. The presence of Texas A&M has had widespread positive effects on both the campus and the community after taking responsibility for Corpus Christi State University. If you would like to visit further on this subject of importance to many in our area, please do not hesitate to contact me personally. God Bless Texas!

Sincerely,

Ben Zeller

Victoria County Judge

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