



City of Tomball

Lori Klein-Quinn
Mayor

David Esquivel
City Manager

Professionalism - Integrity - Respect

April 28, 2025

The Honorable Dr. Tom Oliverson
Texas House of Representatives
PO Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910

Re: Opposition to HB 23

Dear Representative Oliverson,

On behalf of the City of Tomball, I write to express our strong opposition to House Bill 23 (and similar bills) which eliminate the shot clock for plan reviews and allow applicants to use alternative review procedures. While we recognize the intent to enhance efficiency in the development review process, this bill poses significant concerns regarding local governance, public safety, and accountability. Outlined below are our key concerns with this approach.

- **Erosion of Local Oversight:** These bills allow applicants to bypass municipal review processes by engaging third-party reviewers or inspectors. This undermines the authority of local governments to enforce standards tailored to our community's specific needs and priorities.
- **Public Safety Risks:** Municipal inspections ensure that developments comply with safety codes and regulations. Delegating this responsibility to third parties, who may lack comprehensive knowledge of local ordinances, could compromise the safety and well-being of our residents.
- **Accountability Issues:** The bill prohibits municipalities from requiring additional approvals once a third-party reviewer has approved a development document. This restriction limits our ability to address deficiencies or enforce compliance, potentially leading to substandard developments.
- **Potential for Inconsistencies:** Allowing various third-party entities to conduct reviews and inspections may result in inconsistent application of standards, creating confusion and potential legal challenges.

We urge the Legislature to reconsider this approach and instead support collaborative approaches that enhance efficiency without compromising local authority or public safety. Maintaining municipal oversight ensures that development aligns with the unique character and needs of our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Lori Klein Quinn
Mayor

Cc: The Honorable Sam Harless
The Honorable Valoree Swanson