



May 18, 2015

Re: CSSB 1628

Honorable Joe Straus
Speaker of the House
Texas House of Representatives
P. O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

Via Hand Delivery

Dear Speaker Straus,

While I have been a long-term supporter of tort reform in Texas, I cannot support CSSB 1628. While this bill on its face attempts to remedy the abuses of public adjusters and storm chasing attorneys, I am concerned that the bill goes much further. It could make it difficult for businesses who suffer an insured loss to obtain prompt and full payment for such loss from the insurer. As a result, passage of the bill may make Texas a less desirable state in which to do business.

Under the current system in place, the claims handling period and payment deadlines are well defined and clear. While I concede that the current system needs some modification to avoid the abuses that have recently occurred, the current bill appears to make significant changes to the claims handling process without any meaningful prior input from the business community. I am certain that working with business leaders in advance, a bill could be crafted in such a way to eliminate the abuses discussed, while still making Texas a business friendly state.

I would encourage you not to rush in approving the bill. Since we are two weeks away from the end of the regular session, it makes more sense to solicit the thoughts of Texas business leaders during the interim, so that a well thought out bill can be developed to which I can lend my support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Martin III", is written over a horizontal line.

Ruben S. Martin III
President and CEO

cc: Sen. Larry Taylor
Rep. John Smithee
Rep. Todd Hunter
Rep. John Frullo