



# City of Austin

P.O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767-1088

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April 3, 2023

**Re: Testimony against S.B. 1786**

Dear Chairman Bettencourt and members of the Senate Local Government Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony and express the City of Austin's opposition to S.B. 1786.

S.B. 1786 requires delegation of reviews & inspections to a third party based on approval and inspection rates. However, not all types of engineers are qualified to do this work. For example, the ability to review water and wastewater development plans requires technical expertise that is not readily delegable to a third party. If engineers or other professionals who are not employed by a regulatory authority are allowed to do this work, the City recommends amending the bill to insulate the city from any form of liability for work reviewed or inspected by a third-party, including ensuring that a city won't be stopped if the third-party approves or inspects something in error. The City also recommends amending the bill to impose ethics/conflict of interest standards upon third-party reviewers/inspections.

It is with these concerns in mind that the City of Austin urges you to vote against

Sincerely,

Brie Franco  
Intergovernmental Relations Officer  
City of Austin