

August 4, 2025

The Honorable Phil King
Texas State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Cody Vasut
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 12910
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Brandon Creighton
Texas State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711

The Honorable Jon E. Rosenthal
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 12910
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: El Paso Chamber Urges Retention of Key Assets in Texas' 16th District

Dear Senator King, Senator Creighton, Representative Vasut, and Representative Rosenthal,

On behalf of the El Paso Chamber and our more than 400 member organizations, we respectfully urge you to maintain key regional assets—Fort Bliss, the new Veterans Health Care Center, and the El Paso International Airport—within Texas' 16th Congressional District as redistricting efforts continue.

As the leading business advocacy organization in the region, the El Paso Chamber is committed to fostering job growth, economic expansion, and an improved quality of life for all El Pasoans. We believe these critical community assets are best served by representation in a locally based, urban congressional district that understands our region's unique needs and opportunities.

Fort Bliss is the largest employer in El Paso, supporting more than 67,000 soldiers and family members, and serving a broader population of over 158,000 people, including veterans and civilian personnel. The installation contributes an estimated \$25.7 billion annually to the Texas economy. As a cornerstone of the El Paso community, it drives local employment and growth across sectors including logistics, retail, healthcare, and housing.

It is also home to one of the largest military training areas in the United States, playing a vital role in our national defense strategy. Given the scale and strategic significance of Fort Bliss, it is critical that its congressional representation reflect not only a deep understanding of military needs but also the ability to effectively engage with local and federal stakeholders. Texas' 16th District, which has historically championed Fort Bliss in federal funding, infrastructure modernization, and workforce initiatives, is best positioned to provide that representation.

The El Paso International Airport (EPIA) serves as a critical infrastructure hub for the entire region, with nearly 3 million passengers annually. As part of the Chamber's ongoing efforts to improve regional connectivity, EPIA has become a focal point for new investment and innovation—including the Innovation Factory development and expansion of the 601 Corridor Business District. In partnership with Congressional and City leadership, the Chamber has long supported efforts to expand direct flight offerings and attract business travelers, further positioning El Paso as a gateway for domestic and international trade.

The El Paso region is one of the largest binational metropolitan areas in the world, home to over 2.5 million residents across El Paso, Ciudad Juárez, and Southern New Mexico. Our geographic location makes us a critical node in the national supply chain, with over \$86 billion in goods crossing our ports of entry each year. With Fort Bliss, the VA, and EPIA located near each other and closely tied to regional mobility and workforce systems, it is essential they remain represented by the same congressional office that can respond to the interconnected needs of our military, veterans, business, and transportation stakeholders.

The El Paso Chamber has a long and proud history of supporting Fort Bliss, including during previous Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) rounds. We have championed airport modernization efforts dating back to the 1960s and continue to drive innovation and expansion in that space today. These efforts are deeply rooted in our belief that El Paso thrives when its key assets are represented by leaders who live, work, and govern from within the community.

We respectfully urge the Texas Legislature to keep Fort Bliss, the Veterans Health Care Center, and the El Paso International Airport within Texas' 16th Congressional District to ensure coordinated representation that reflects the region's urban, economic, military, and binational identity.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our position.

Sincerely,



Ricardo Mora
President & CEO, El Paso Chamber



Elizabeth O'Hara
Chair, El Paso Chamber Board of Directors