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KEVIN P. ELTIFE
STATE SENATOR

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September 29, 2011

Dear Colleague:

Enclosed please find a letter I have received from JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director of Grassroots America-We the People and Chair of the TEA Party Caucus Advisory Committee to the Texas Legislature's TEA Party Caucus. JoAnn is also a former Smith County Commissioner and constituent with whom I have worked at the local level.

In her letter, JoAnn expresses concern about the fact that "sanctuary cities" legislation failed to pass during the 82nd Regular and Special Sessions, a concern that all of us no doubt share for the reasons she outlines.

By my signature on this letter, I am reaffirming my support for passage of legislation to address the issue of sanctuary cities when the Legislature meets, whether during the next Regular Session or a Special Session. JoAnn has asked me to gauge the continued support of my colleagues on this issue. If you would like to reaffirm your support, please send written confirmation to the attention of Ryan Weiseman in my Capitol Office.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

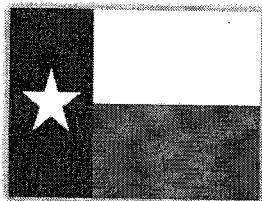
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin P. Eltife".

Kevin P. Eltife
State Senator

KPE/cv

Enclosure





Tea Party Caucus Advisory Committee of Texas JoAnn Fleming, Committee Chair

The Honorable Kevin P. Eltife
Texas State Senator, District One

September 28, 2011

Dear Senator Eltife:

I am writing today concerning an issue of vital interest to the state of Texas because it is an issue inextricably linked to national security, the state budget, jobs, the rule of law, and the ***oath-bound duty of every state official to protect the life, liberty, and property of Texas citizens and legal residents.*** The subject is the failure of the 82nd Texas Legislature to pass legislation banning sanctuary cities in our state. As you well remember, the House passed a bill during the regular session, and the Senate passed a bill during the special session, but political maneuvering ensured the House did not take up the Senate's bill before the special session expired. The result: failure.

On June 28, 2011, I and four other grassroots leaders from across the state met with Governor Perry to discuss the topic of sanctuary cities and stressed to him that it would be unacceptable to wait until the next legislative session in 2013 to address this matter. We agreed with the Governor on the importance of passing a ban on sanctuary cities because it was at least a *limited, minimum first step* in the interior enforcement of the rule of law as it pertains to illegal immigration.

Senator, there is no way that Governor Perry and his advisors could have walked away from our meeting with any misunderstanding about our strong desire to see this unfinished business completed. We stressed that he has at his disposal two methods to solve this problem: as the Governor, he can call a special session on any topic he deems necessary when he deems it necessary, or because it is primarily a law enforcement matter, Governor Perry could issue an executive order to ban sanctuary cities in Texas and set forth specific penalties for ignoring the ban. Since we received no "push back" from him or from his staff regarding the executive order solution, *we have no reason to believe that it is not an option for him*. We just want the problem solved. Period.

We waited almost three months and heard nothing back from Governor Perry; therefore on September 19, we held a news conference in the Capitol to address the unfinished business of sanctuary cities in the hope that letters from thousands of Texans would capture his attention while on the campaign trail. The open letter idea originated at the close of the 2011 regular and special legislative sessions and was supported by a broad coalition of local grassroots organizations in Texas. The open letter calls on Governor Perry to address the urgent unfinished business of "sanctuary city" policies in Texas. Over 3,000 local activists signed the

letter, including representatives of over 100 local tea party, 9-12 and related grassroots groups. *The signatures of some leaders represent literally thousands of group members.* The letters were delivered to Governor Perry's office on September 19 after our news conference.

To date, the response we received through the media – not directly from Governor Perry or from his staff – but through the media, was “talk to your legislators.”

Talking to our legislators is exactly what we've been doing. As our state senator, we are asking for your support and your help in getting the problem solved. Here's why:

- 1) Sanctuary cities can harbor illegals that represent a national security threat. Those who are a threat to this country naturally gravitate to places where they feel safest from the rule of law.
- 2) Sanctuary cities harbor people who are a threat to the lives of citizens and legal immigrants. Too many law enforcement officers, citizens, and legal immigrants have lost their lives at the hands of illegals. The loss of five Houston police officers at the hands of illegal aliens demonstrates the high price of ignoring this problem.
- 3) Sanctuary cities are strong magnets for those who come here to exploit the social safety net for free health care and all manner of taxpayer-funded government hand-outs. ***Any policy that gives safe harbor to illegal immigration escalates state spending.***
- 4) Sanctuary cities further enable businesses that want to employ cheap labor. Such employers leave it up to taxpayers to pick up the tab for indigent health care and other social services for these undocumented workers and their families.
- 5) Sanctuary cities allow foreign countries to exploit the United States and our lack of enforcement of the rule of law.

Senator Eltife, Governor Perry made banning sanctuary cities an emergency item for the 82nd Texas Legislature. After an outcry from the grassroots, he put the matter on the call for the special session. ***If banning sanctuary cities in Texas was an emergency item in January, still a matter of vital state interest in May and June, then it is a reasonable expectation that it remains a critical issue today – a problem that needs solving.***

We respectfully ask for your support and your help on moving forward to ban sanctuary cities in the state of Texas. It is our strong concern that because many states have recently passed strong interior enforcement laws to curtail taxpayer-supported services to illegal aliens and to penalize employers of undocumented workers, Texas will see an increase in this population. We are also concerned that President Obama's recent executive order reducing deportation standards for those who are in the country illegally will negatively impact Texas.

Senator Eltife, we would greatly appreciate your support. We encourage you and your senate colleagues to sign a letter reaffirming your commitment to pass sanctuary cities legislation *should Governor Perry call a special session on this important issue.*

Thank you for your consideration and effort in this matter,



JoAnn Fleming
Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People and
Chair, TEA Party Caucus Advisory Committee to the Texas Legislature's TEA Party Caucus