

In Support of Texas Historical Commission

- I. With the full understanding there will be budget cuts, we would like to see the Texas Historical Commission and Staff assign the reductions to keep as many of our existing programs in operation as possible, although at a reduced rate. We are not asking for more funding from the Legislature, but we would like to see the release of the \$10 Million Trust Fund so some of the funds could be used to keep our programs intact.**
- II. We recognize the Texas Historical Commission is a professional and efficient organization that accomplishes required tasks with a minimum of personnel.**
- III. We recognize the Texas Historical Commission provides important functions by saving and interpreting the history and heritage of Texas. If these services are suspended, we will lose part of our unique Texas Heritage.**
- IV. We foresee a large economic impact if we lose our Heritage Trails tourism, the Main Street and Courthouse programs. These programs are important to rural Texas by bringing in tourism with promotions local governments could not perform alone. The return in tourism dollars and local taxes for the State of Texas is very large for the amount spent.**
- V. The loss of funding of the Texas Historical Commission's website and brochure printing would make it very hard for tourist to find local historic sites. The cost of these programs is very small compared to the return on the investment.**
- VI. The benefits for local School Districts' educational tours and programs are tremendous. Thousands of Texas school children come to our sites and have programs provided by the Texas Historical Commission every year. "Hands on" History is the best teaching tool available.**