



State of Texas
House of Representatives

April 22, 2022

Mr. Charles S. Cox
City Manager
City of Farmers Branch
13000 William Dodson Parkway
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Dear Mr. Cox:

Recently, it was brought to our attention that the City of Farmers Branch is issuing citations to individuals involved in farming within city limits. We understand that the City has the authority to exercise certain municipal codes for the protection of public health. Nevertheless, there are times in which broader development and population growth conflict with the established protections for farmers across our great state. These protections were passed in the legislature to prevent extraordinary damage to those who are making their living by working the land.

As you know, Texas was built upon our strong farming and ranching heritage, dating back long before its independence from Mexico. Our state also has an engrained culture of protecting private property, as well as the preservation of one's land and agricultural heritage. As Texas' population has increased, especially in our region over the past four decades, the Texas Legislature has advocated for and protected the right to farm with the goal of ensuring that farmers' rights are preserved despite development in urban areas. These laws were intended to address the diverse needs of Texans and our economy, while honoring private property and agricultural development.

It is our sincere hope that the City of Farmers Branch can come to an amicable arrangement with landowners, lessees, and occupants of agricultural land - one in which their private property rights are respected and they are able to make their living in peace with minimal governmental interference. As members of the legislature, we appreciate the opportunity to develop local solutions over statewide actions that restrict municipalities further. If any of our offices can be of assistance in facilitating these discussions, or work to find common ground solutions, please do not hesitate to reach out as our doors are always open.

Thank you for your time and assistance with this important issue, along with your service to the people of Farmers Branch.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tan Parker".

Tan Parker
State Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DeWayne Burns".

DeWayne Burns
State Representative



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House of Representatives

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles 'Doc' Anderson".

Charles "Doc" Anderson
State Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ernest J. Bailes, IV".

Ernest Bailes
State Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Bell".

Keith Bell
State Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Cyrier".

John Cyrier
State Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ryan Guillen".

Ryan Guillen
State Representative

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Toth".

Steve Toth
State Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James White".

James White
State Representative