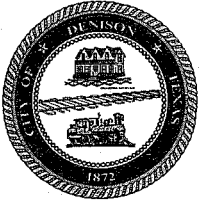


RECEIVED APR 23 2009



CITY OF DENISON

500 West Chestnut • P. O. Box 347 • Denison, Texas 75021-0347
(903) 465-2720 • FAX (903) 464-4499

20 April 2009

The Honorable Jim Dunnam
Chair
House Select Committee on
Federal Economic Stabilization Funding
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768-2910

Dear Chair Dunnam:

Included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is a program called the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (Title XIV). The purpose of this fund is to provide fiscal relief to the states to prevent tax increases and cutbacks in critical services. It is my understanding that Texas will receive over \$3 billion from this fund. The act gives governors discretion to use 18.2% of the state's allocation for public safety and other government services, which could include Texas public libraries.

I encourage you to use the Governor's discretionary funds within the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to invest in public libraries as recommended by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

With the current economic decline, use of Texas public libraries is soaring. Many of these community anchor institutions report double digit increases in people visiting local libraries, borrowing books and audio visuals, using computers with free Internet access to search for employment, and attending educational programs for children, teens, and adults.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission already identified a number of worthy and ready projects including one in our area (Denison). Your decision would not only impact local employment situations positively, but also would strengthen important local institutional assets all across the state. This assistance would be a tremendous help to local governments and would leave an unsurpassed legacy of support for service to local communities.

Moreover, by using this stimulus money for capital improvements such as public libraries, the State promotes the local economy now without incurring additional costs in the future. The local governments have responsibility for maintaining and operating these facilities.

The Honorable Jim Dunnam
20 April 2009
Page 2

While we are fortunate that prudent fiscal policy and conservative state leadership have thus far shielded Texas from much of the widespread national economic downturn, the stimulus package can help achieve many important infrastructure goals for our great state. By accomplishing these now, we build for a more vibrant economy tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Brady". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "B".

Robert Brady, Mayor
City of Denison