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April 1, 2009

The Honorable James R. Dunnam
Chairman, Select Committee on Federal
Economic Stabilization Funding
Texas House of Representatives
Capitol Building, Room E2.202
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Chairman Dunnam:

I appreciate your commitment to transparency and accountability when dealing with federal economic stimulus funds. At both the state and federal levels, transparency and accountability are critical parts of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). To that end, the Comptroller's office is closely reviewing the ARRA to study fully what it means for Texas.

To further transparency, we have developed a Web page dedicated to providing the most up-to-date information on this effort. We have compiled a comprehensive spreadsheet with details on the provisions of the federal stimulus bill, estimates of federal spending and the estimated amounts Texas might expect to receive. This spreadsheet is updated each time new information is received from the federal government. In addition, we have compiled detailed information on grants and other potential funding opportunities made available by the ARRA. So far we have received positive feedback on the Web site with over 30,000 hits since we launched.

In response to your request to notify committee staff on federal stimulus developments, we will continue to work with your staff to provide information regarding Department of Energy guidance on the State Energy Plan and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant programs, plus the Governor's assurance letter. We also recently provided and updated the above referenced spreadsheet detailing the provisions of the federal stimulus bill to your office. I can assure you that as more information becomes available, your committee staff will be notified.

I hope the information provided is helpful. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure a transparent and accountable process.

Sincerely,



Susan Combs

