



## RESOLUTION

San Angelo Chamber of Commerce

Requesting

**Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) Endorsement of the United States Congress's Authorization for Further Expansion of Interstate 14**

**WHEREAS**, according to the *Texas Freight Mobility Plan*, “By 2040 over 73 percent of Texas’ population and 82 percent of the state’s employment is projected to be located within five miles of an interstate”; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Texas Freight Mobility Plan* notes that further investment alone on I-35 will not address future transportation issues, stating: “The state must focus not only on improving existing facilities, but also on developing future freight corridors to move products to markets and exports”; and

**WHEREAS**, Interstate 14, including an Odessa-Midland-San Angelo-Brady corridor, will provide significant advantage in the achievement of the goals and objectives defined within the *Texas Freight Mobility Plan*; and

**WHEREAS** HR 2220 and the five-state I-14 route designation from Texas to Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, is reported to have bipartisan support in the House; and

**WHEREAS** further progress on this matter is dependent upon the Texas Department of Transportation’s (TXDOT’s) endorsement of the U. S. Congress’s authorization for further expansion of Interstate 14; and

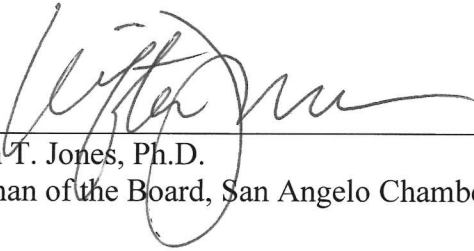
**WHEREAS** such an endorsement is not a mandate nor a funding request; TXDOT will still control when and how the interstate expansions will occur; and

**WHEREAS** the U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman pledged his willingness to support this I-14 proposal when the bill is considered by the full House of Representatives on June 30, 2020 if the state Departments of Transportation involved issue letters of support; and

**WHEREAS** an Interstate designation for I-14 will be a significant new economic development tool for communities along the corridor, because site selectors for manufacturing, warehousing and distribution often recommend sites along an interstate highway, and travel services businesses such as hotels, truck stops, convenience stores and restaurants, which can have a dramatic impact on small communities, will also expand, creating much needed new jobs and an expanded tax base in rural West Texas; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE** Board of Directors of the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce urgently requests that TXDOT issue a support letter of designation for I-14 with updated language from HR 2220.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** this the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clifton Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Clifton T. Jones, Ph.D.  
Chairman of the Board, San Angelo Chamber of Commerce