



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

July 12, 2021

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Dade Phelan
Speaker of the Texas House
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Governor Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Patrick, and Speaker Phelan,

As a Texan and a statewide elected official, I was pleased that Governor Abbott had called a special session of the 87th Texas Legislature to address several critical issues that failed to be addressed during the regular session. Chief amongst those issues was election integrity and voting reform legislation which had been named a priority issue by the Governor at the outset of the regular session.

Now, it appears that a large number, if not all, of the Democratic members of the Texas House and some in the Texas Senate are preparing to flee the state in order to break quorum and, once again, deny the people of Texas the opportunity to have legislation passed and signed into law which will give them confidence in the election process in our state and be assured that legally cast votes are counted and illegally cast votes are not.

Those who choose to shirk their constitutionally mandated responsibilities must understand that there will be severe consequences should they take actions which prevent the legislature from doing its job.

(more)

Governor Abbott
Lieutenant Governor Patrick
Speaker Phelan
July 12, 2021
Page 2

That is why I am asking for the following actions to be immediately taken:

First, I am calling on Lieutenant Governor Patrick and Speaker Phelan to immediately place a call on the Texas House and Texas Senate, the doors of both chambers to be locked, and that officers with the Texas Department of Public Safety be ordered to forcibly detain any legislator attempting to leave the House or Senate Chamber and to seek out and arrest any member who has already fled the building.

Secondly, I call on Lieutenant Governor Patrick and Speaker Phelan to immediately strip any member of the Texas House or Senate who knowingly and willfully breaks quorum, or attempts to do so, of any Committee Chairmanship, Vice Chairmanship, or membership in a substantive committee they may hold and to withhold any per diem they may have normally been entitled to receive.

Third, I ask Governor Abbott to consult with the Texas Attorney General and to research other sanctions, legal remedies, and/or violations of state law which may be enforced upon legislators who fail to meet their constitutional obligations and their obligations to the people who elected them.

As I travel across our great state, I am reminded that the people of Texas expect their elected representatives to do their jobs and be on the job and at work when the Texas Legislature is in session. There must be consequences for bad behavior, and I call on each of you to ensure that the planned theatrics by some legislators to deny the will of the majority of Texans are met with firm, swift, and lasting ramifications.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and for your continued service to the people of the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sid Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Sid Miller
Texas Commissioner of Agriculture