



Texas State Cemetery

February 8, 2017

The Honorable Steve Adler and City Council Members
City of Austin
Austin City Hall
301 West 2nd Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council Members:

I am writing this letter in support of Council Member Ora Houston's Capitol View Corridor Resolution. As you may know, the Texas State Cemetery has been an East Austin institution since 1851. Since the current Capitol was built in 1888, the Cemetery has had an unobstructed view. It has been a priority of past Legislatures to keep that view.

Several of the Cemetery's most prominent founding fathers have their headstones oriented to the west in order to face the Capitol building. Those founding fathers include Ashbel Smith, the "Father of Texas Medicine" and "the Father of the University of Texas" and William Lockhart Hunter, survivor of the Goliad Massacre. More recently, Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock insisted that a 150-foot flagpole be installed at the Cemetery so legislators could see it from the Capitol and not forget the Texas State Cemetery. During the Cemetery's renovation, the hill on the north side of the property was raised to improve the view of the Capitol from East Austin.

For these reasons and others, the Texas State Cemetery Committee supports Council Member Houston's Capitol View Corridor Resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact Harry Bradley, Superintendent, at (512) 415-4901.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. M. Hanson".

Benjamin M. Hanson
Chairman, Texas State Cemetery Committee