

**CITY OF SEABROOK  
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
SEABROOK, TEXAS IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 2, AND ANY  
OTHER LEGISLATION IMPOSING REVENUE CAPS ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT CAUSING INTERFERENCE WITH LOCAL SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, current Texas tax law requires that if the effective tax rate assessed against real property within the city is increased by more than eight percent (8%) over the rate assessed for the previous calendar year, the qualified voters residing in the city can petition for an election to rollback the increase to eight percent (8%); and

**WHEREAS**, bills have been introduced in the 85th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature to cap the amount of property tax revenue Texas cities can collect each year and, if enacted, will replace the current eight percent (8%) “rollback rate” with a hard cap of four percent (4%) and require mandatory elections on any increase over four percent (4%); and

**WHEREAS**, communications to the public have been incorrect in suggesting that individual homeowners and business owners could see a massive cost savings; and

**WHEREAS**, the passage of such legislation burdens municipalities, like Seabrook, that receive little to no state funding on state mandated project commitments for infrastructure relocations, such as the State Highway 146 expansion, estimated to cost between \$4 million and \$5 million dollars into local debt service without voter approval; and

**WHEREAS**, taxes to fund debt service only would shift the amount of taxes collected from annual operations and maintenance to payment of debt service, resulting in no real reduction; and

**WHEREAS**, property value decreases from catastrophic storm surge events, extending years after disaster declaration exemptions are raised, could negatively affect essential municipal service levels; and

**WHEREAS**, services that keep cities safe from crime; allow quick response to emergencies; enhance economic growth and job creation; provide recreational facilities and parks; and protect the natural environment could be immediately affected if a revenue cap were in place; and

**WHEREAS**, revenue cap proposals that require a rollback election if a city exceeds the lowered rollback rate, instead of the current system that allows voters to petition to hold an election, equates to yet another state mandated expenditure at the local level; and

**WHEREAS**, cities collect sixteen percent (16%) of the total property taxes levied against real property in Texas, with fifty-five percent (55%) of the property taxes paid by Texans going to school districts, which are inadequately funded by the State; and

**WHEREAS**, local elected officials are the most knowledgeable about the level of local governmental services desired by the residents who elected them and the amount such residents are willing and able to pay for such services and should have the discretion to establish the level of funding required to provide the services demanded by its residents;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEABROOK, TEXAS:**

1. That all of the above recitals are true and correct;
2. That the City Council of the City of Seabrook, Texas, is **OPPOSED** to the imposition through State law of any revenue cap or any other legislation that interferes with the discretion of local elected officials to establish the levels of funding necessary to provide the local services and to construct, operate and maintain the public facilities desired and demanded by those who elect those local officials;
3. That revenue caps do not provide meaningful property tax relief; and
4. That such legislation diverts attention from the real causes of higher property taxes.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2017.

CITY OF SEABROOK, TEXAS



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Glenn Royal  
Mayor

ATTEST:



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Robin Hicks, TRMC  
City Secretary

