



City of West University Place

A Neighborhood City



Recycled Paper

June 3, 2009

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Subject: Please Veto Senate Bill 1410

Governor Rick Perry:

The City of West University Place urges your veto of Senate Bill 1410. Originally a housekeeping bill about licensing plumbers, SB 1410 was amended in the last week of the legislative session to nullify an ordinance our city council unanimously passed just a few weeks ago. Based on a recommendation of our fire chief, we passed an ordinance that requires residential fire sprinklers in all of our newly built homes.

We don't want to be dismissive of the merits of our ordinance; the merits are persuasive. However it is not the merits that beg for a veto, it is the amendment's assault on local control. We know you share our belief the best government is the government closest to the people.

This amendment that preempts our building code was authored by Rep. Warren Chisum from Pampa, a rural town almost 600 miles away and more than a nine-hour drive. It was then amended again by Rep. John Otto, whose district office is in Dayton, 43 miles from the City of West University Place. Both Pampa and Dayton are rural areas with entirely different dynamics than our urban community. In our view, West U building code regulations should not be made in the panhandle of Texas or in Liberty County. Governor Perry, we respectfully suggest that our local elected officials are best positioned to make our local decisions.

Local control has always been a fundamental tenant of your philosophy of government. The amended SB 1410 attacks that philosophy. We strongly urge your veto.

Thank You for your consideration,

Bob Kelly, Mayor

George Boehme, Councilmember