



CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

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Dear Houston cable customers,

Because you each have both a State Representative & State Senator who represent you in the Texas Legislature, I hope you will join with Houston City Council and me in urging them to reject bills that would limit the ability of Texas cities to collect fees from telecommunications and cable companies for their use of public right-of-way. Cities collect a portion of each customer's cable bill for the compensation for using Houston's right-of-way, and the companies pass on that cost to their customers.

Now, House Bill 3535 and Senate Bill 1152 will cut the ability to charge for these fees. They are arguing that because they are able to bundle services in lines, they should only have to pay one fee, not both, despite billing you for both services. Keep in mind we charge the fee based on the value of services, and these companies are still charging customers for both phone and cable services.

The bills would **not** require cable service providers to pass along their "savings" to you. There is no guarantee that your monthly bill for cable TV, video, internet and/or phone service would shrink if the bill is approved by lawmakers and becomes law.

On the other hand, we are sure that the bills would take between \$17 million to \$27 million out of our city government's annual budget and hand it to corporations instead. That amount of money provides the pay for 225 first responders or 337 municipal employees. Losing the funds would deepen the budget challenges that the city faces every year.

Senate Bill 1152 and House Bill 3535 are currently being considered at the state capitol in Austin. I urge you to:

- Call or write your state senator and state representative and tell them as a consumer, you are against SB 1152 and HB 3535, and
- Call the members of the House Committee on State Affairs to register your opposition to HB 3535.

You can go online to <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home> to find the names of your state senator and state representative and their contact information. Rosters for the House and Senate Committees are attached.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner
Mayor