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September 2, 2016

The Honorable Sarah Eckhardt
County Judge
Travis County Commissioner's Court
700 Lavaca, Ste 2.300
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Judge Eckhardt,

As I have expressed to you and others, I do not believe the Legislature would approve exemptions to the Capitol View Corridors for a Travis County courthouse.

Following our recent meeting, in which I shared my views, I reached out to John Sneed, the Executive Director of the Texas State Preservation Board, for his perspective. I wanted to assure you, others, and myself that I wasn't expressing an opinion that was solely my own. Attached is a letter from Mr. Sneed sharing his strong opinion that any exemption would meet significant opposition from the preservation community, state leadership and the Legislature.

I personally believe the Capitol is a defining feature of Austin and we should maintain the integrity of the Capitol View Corridors. Regardless of my personal belief, legislation that would obstruct views of this iconic building would be highly unlikely to pass.

I maintain my support for your important and continued efforts to increase civil courthouse capacity and address the deteriorating facilities in use today. I'm at your service to help where I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirk Watson".

Kirk Watson

Attachment: August 31, 2016 letter from Mr. John Sneed