



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

December 13, 2021

Dear State Agency Heads:

As you know, Congress has significantly increased the amount of programmatic and special funding, including the creation of new programs, over the past two years. In fact, Congress will continue to consider even more spending packages, even as various federal agencies concurrently contemplate rules and regulations for previous bills. Most recently, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was passed by Congress and signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021. The \$1 trillion package appropriates funds for drinking-water infrastructure, broadband access, transportation, airports, and more.

As you and your staff begin to review the IIJA, and as you review each federal funding agreement or contract associated with the programs you administer, please consider all of the requirements, particularly new ones, and carefully assess their implications. We must be conscientious of conditions attached to any of these funds by the federal statute itself or by the federal implementing agency. Please apply this same diligence to future legislation that Congress could pass in the coming weeks and months.

I will continue to work with the Texas Legislature to determine which policies ensure Texas continues to be the best place to raise a family, build a business, and create greater opportunity for all. Should the acceptance of any federal funds hinder or needlessly constrain the state, commit the state to ongoing costs for which there is not an appropriation available, or require an agency to implement a federal policy contrary to the law or policy of this state, the agreement proposed by the federal agency should not be signed. Please be vigilant and communicate frequently with my office before you proceed with accepting or applying for federal funding opportunities.

As questions arise for you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:shd