



Lumbermen's Association of Texas

MATERIALS TO BUILD TEXAS SINCE 1886

**ABOUT LAT:** We are a trade association serving the Texas lumber and building materials supply chain, which includes lumberyards and building material dealers, manufacturers, mills, distributors and service providers.

Many LAT members are multi-generational, family owned and operated businesses. We supply every sector of Texas' thriving housing and construction economies but focus on serving independent home builders, remodelers, repair trades and DIYers.

As businesses deeply invested in the communities they serve, LAT members have a long history of legislative engagement. Our businesses have always been and will continue to be economic drivers in the towns, cities and counties across Texas.



### Commitment to Community

For many years, LAT has partnered with Mobile Loaves & Fishes in its mission to support our homeless neighbors and to serve as a model to address homelessness in other Texas communities. Our commitment to this work is emblematic of our members deep Texas roots and investment in the communities we serve.

LAT also supports the work and further growth of Community First! Village - a 51 acre master planned community providing affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for those coming out of chronic homelessness.

## LAT PRIORITIES FOR THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

### STATE BUDGET & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Increasing the Homestead Exemption

With a historic budget surplus, Texas leaders have an opportunity to invest in the state's future. LAT supports an increase to Texans' homestead exemption which will help alleviate the housing affordability crisis. LAT will also work with Texas business leaders to advocate for tax relief that helps our economy create jobs.

- TSTC's \$102.7 million CDL Program Expansion Exceptional Item

LAT supports Texas State Technical College's (TSTC) budget request of \$103 million to: (1) establish or expand six CDL training and testing sites, (2) create licensing capacity to license approximately 2,400 CDL drivers per year, and (3) establish a platform for an advanced transportation system around the state to address both immediate and future training needs.

The Texas Trucking Association (TXTA) and LAT agree that the shortage of CDL drivers continues to negatively impact the supply chain. TXTA projects 62,000 new job openings alone due to growth over the next 10 years.

- A \$650 million investment to increase community college funding based on schools' performance

As a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Commissioner's Economic and Workforce Council, LAT has followed the work of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance. Like the Commission, we believe this is a bold much-needed step to develop a competitive workforce for the future that meets the needs of Texas employers.



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## MAINTAIN A PRO-JOB CREATION REGULATORY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Protect fairness and balance in trucking accident litigation

Protect the truck litigation reforms from 2021 (HB 19 Leach/Taylor) and continue to work with the Texas Department of Insurance to monitor the impact of the reforms.

- Maintain the ability to get paid for materials sold and delivered

Oppose efforts to weaken the state's Mechanic's and Materialmen's Liens laws and the ability of Texas suppliers' to get paid for materials sold. Protect the statute changes from 2021 (HB 2237 Burrows/Johnson) that modernized and simplified Texas lien laws, which are critical to the Texas lumber and building materials supply chain.

## CONTACT US

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