

Wharton County Junior College

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January 30, 2023

Cesar Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E. Chancellor Houston Community College System 3100 Main St. Houston, TX 77002

Re: Designation of unassigned college service areas in Fort Bend County to HCC college service area

Dear Dr. Maldonado,

I am writing to express Wharton County Junior College's support of Houston Community College District's (HCC) proposed designation of certain unassigned college service areas in Fort Bend County for inclusion in HCC's state legislated service area boundaries. You have represented that these areas are not within the service area of any other Texas community college (*i.e.*, "the territory within the boundaries of the taxing district of a junior college district"). Notably, HCC has been providing dual credit instruction to FBISD students who reside in these two areas for many years.

HCC's efforts importantly align with the legislative intent of, <u>S.B. 297</u> (by Ratliff, 74R), which is to avoid duplication of services by establishing delineated community college service areas. This proposed legislative action, if approved, will accomplish this objective. Without reservation, I support HCC's proposed service area expansion request that concerns three defined areas located within FBISD boundaries.

Sincerely,

Amy Rod, Chair Wharton County Junior College Board of Trustees