[Customize the words below for a more effective, personalized letter to your local officials. Make sure you delete all highlighted text before sending! Be sure to include your name and address.]

Mayor [insert Mayor’s Name]
[insert City Hall Address]

City Council Member [insert Member’s Name]
[insert City Hall Address]

Dear Mayor and City Council Member,

I urge you to send a message to our State Officials to oppose efforts to overrule the ability of local governments to protect their tree canopy. Most city ordinances set out rules so that developers must preserve mature trees that provide many benefits to city-dwellers.

Of course, trees save Texans money by providing shade for our homes and reducing our air conditioning bills. Trees also help recharge our groundwater and reduce the need for irrigation. Properties and communities with mature trees are generally more valuable and more livable. Retail stores with trees even do better business than stores without trees.

Less well known is the importance of trees in providing protection from stormwater run-off and flooding for neighbors and property owners who are downstream. Communities pay hundreds of millions of dollars for stormwater infrastructure. Preserving trees saves taxpayer dollars. Storms are fierce in Texas and we need all the help we can get when it comes to protecting lives and property from flooding.

Trees also protect water quality and air quality. Just as cities can set limits on the location of facilities that might pollute the air and water, cities should be able to protect community assets such as mature trees. Otherwise, developers will have the ability to mow down trees to save a few dollars, while people who live in the community will pay the price.

We must be responsible stewards of our environment, including our trees. I urge you to reach out to our local State Representatives and Senators, and use your power and influence as Mayor and Council Member, to tell them that State Government should not run roughshod over critical local rules that protect natural resources that have provided benefits to generations of Texans.

Dozens of Texas cities—large and small—have passed ordinances to save their mature trees. Please contact our legislators and tell them cities should retain their rights to protect their trees.

Sincerely,