

July 10, 2021

Jorge D. Ayala, Regional Director
Economic Development Administration
903 San Jacinto Blvd., Suite 206
Austin, Texas 78701-2450

Director Ayala,

Tyler County is in full support the application of Stephen F. Austin State University to be designated as an EDA University Center.

We're working hard to make life better for our citizens, but our needs are great. Having a University Center serving a rural region like ours would be huge. SFA has shown they have a commitment to rural research and innovation. Their Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation (CARRI) is already doing great things. The University Center designation would build on this and allow them to do more.

The counties and communities of Deep East Texas work well through DETCOG to improve economic conditions here. I know EDA supports DETCOG and I appreciate that. But again, the needs are great. We need all the assistance we can get.

I hope you will give very strong consideration to SFA's application.

Sincerely,

Milton Powers
Tyler County Judge