

## **SUPPORT**

### **HB 2374 & SB 1017 – Stop Cities From Banning Gas-Powered Landscape Equipment–**

This bill eliminates the ability of cities, like the City of Dallas, from banning the sale or use of gas-powered landscape equipment. Our association does not support a local government making the decision for landscapers on what equipment they are allowed to use, especially given that battery-powered alternatives have yet to be competitive from a cost, efficiency, or power standpoint in a commercial setting.

### **Legislation to Stop Texas Department Agriculture Consumer Tracing Requirement**

TNLA opposes the newly implemented requirement by TDA that garden centers in a quarantine zone manually collect consumers personal information including addresses at checkout and maintain it for years. This requirement damages the retail-consumer relationship, is not practical for many retail businesses, and violates common privacy standards on personal data. In addition, the retailer must take on massive liability (up to \$5,000 per instance) to accurately collect consumer information. This requirement is anti-commerce and misguided policy on the control of plant diseases.

### **HB 2127 & SB 817 – Texas Regulatory Consistency Act**

Recently cities have started to try and regulate employment leave, hiring practices, employment benefits, scheduling practices, or other terms of employment. In addition, certain cities are targeting landscape equipment, agriculture practices, and other regulatory areas typically reserved for the state. These bill address this by re-affirming the authority with the state, eliminating patchwork regulations, the compliance headache, and potential intrusion of cities into private business operations.

### **Legislation on Credit/Debit Card Swipe Fee Fairness**

Texas' swipe fee fairness bills will prevent banks and card companies like VISA and Mastercard from charging merchants a swipe fee on the sales, alcohol, hotel occupancy, and similar consumption taxes collected on behalf of the government. Currently, merchants like garden center retailers pay card processors a fee ranging from 3-5% on an entire transaction, including any taxes they are required to collect and remit to the government.

### **HB 1750, HB 2308 – Strengthen the Right to Farm Act**

Growing conflict between a developing state and agriculture producers have caused certain local governments to hamper agriculture operations, in some cases outright banning them. These bills seek to strengthen the existing Right to Farm Act already in law by further limiting nuisance claims and restricting municipal authority to hamper agricultural practices.

### **HB 2483 & SB 837– Water For Texas Fund**

TNLA supports a portion of the historic \$32 billion budget surplus to develop new water supplies for the State of Texas. Our state must take serious initiative to develop new water supply in Texas to ensure that water is available for growers, consumers, and industry, including the green industry.

## **OPPOSE**

### **HB 1851 – Mandatory Plant Labels For Pet Toxicity Warnings**

The bill would require toxicity written warning on sago palms and potentially other plant varieties. TNLA is opposed to this bill due to the new cost and compliance being placed on our businesses. New labels cost money for growers, compliance issues can subject retailers to Stop Sales, and this bill creates slippery slope of expanding regulations on our industry. Warnings about household items toxic to pets would be better provided by public resources or animal-related industries.