

**From:** [Shanae Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Disapproval of banning goods and services from Texas  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 8, 2021 9:17:17 AM

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To whom it may concern,

As a born and raised Portland resident of 28 years, I want to share my disapproval of Portland's plan to ban the procurement of goods and services from Texas. I feel that this is an unhealthy and unproductive response from Portland that not only goes against the spirit of our nation, but is an overreach of a small group of people speaking for thousands.

Banning the city of Portland from trading and traveling to Texas is both an unhealthy and unproductive response. It is comparable to giving someone the silent treatment in an argument. It shuts down channels of communication and lessens any influence we may have otherwise had. It comes off as a punitive movement, that in the end will only hurt our own city, as Texas has many others to hold commerce with, and will not be greatly impacted by this ban. Furthermore, it seems to go against the very fiber of what this nation stands for. Each state is governed by their own bodies, and the people chosen to represent Texas have made this decision. As a "united" states, we must be willing to live in relationship with those that feel or think differently than us, rather than shunning and standing in judgement. As someone who identifies as pro-life, I still have many reservations and critiques of Texas' policies. I think they are by no means perfect, and I would prefer to be able to continue the conversation between our states, rather than creating a divide that will cut off any healthy discourse.

The decision to enforce a ban would mean the city speaking for thousands who disagree. Abortion is an issue that multiple religious and cultural groups stand against. The opinions of the council on abortion do not represent that of many in our city, and a decision to ban makes us feel that not only is Texas not welcome in our city, but neither are we. As a city we long for diversity, but we will never obtain it if we cut ourselves off from every idea and people group that does not align with our ideal. Creating this ban would firmly be a step in the wrong direction.

Thanks you for your time and your consideration of my words,

Shanae Kelly