



San Jacinto Commissioners Court
1 State Highway 150, Rm. 2
Coldspring, Texas 77331

To the Honorable Member of the San Jacinto Commissioners Court

It has come to our attention that in an apparent effort to attack and cause controversy around a symbol that they disagreed with, and Wisconsin-based Atheist organization called Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) is seeking to pressure the San Jacinto County to take certain action. We have not seen the letter submitted to the county by FFRF but we are very familiar with their track record in Texas of bad legal analysis, losing court cases and frivolous attempts to bully government officials into taking action that our U. S. Supreme Court precedent does not require. We strongly encourage the county to not be mislead by FFRF and instead seek guidance from our team or the Texas Attorney General's office. There is no reason to rush to take an official vote on whether or not to remove the symbol in question.

The FFRF has a long history of desperate and mean-spirited attacks on religious freedom and symbols and a string of failed frivolous lawsuits in Texas, like unsuccessfully trying to prevent Governor Perry from praying at private event in Houston. Their lawsuit on this issue was thrown out of court.

Also, in Texas (FFRF) filed a complaint with the Kountze ISD because of the cheerleaders' use of scripture. The cheerleader's attorneys are from First Liberty Institute in Texas, and the cheerleaders have won several court victories on this case at the Texas Supreme Court.

Our money is emblazoned with the phrase "In God We Trust" and our Pledge of Allegiance says "one Nation under God. The Supreme Court said in Zorach v. Clauson, 343 U.S. 306 (1952), that "We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being." Symbols are a mere recognition of the Supreme Being that are permitted and constitutional.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. Texas Values is a statewide nonprofit organization that has extensive experience in law and policy as it relates religious liberty.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Saenz, Esq.

President & Attorney
Texas Values
900 Congress, Suite L115
Austin, Texas 78701
512-478-2220
jsaenz@txvalues.org