March 21, 2022

Dear Governor Abbott,

As leaders of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), the largest organization for women engineers and technologists, we wish to unequivocally assert that the recent policies and legislation adopted in Texas, specifically those around women’s healthcare and transgender affirming care, do not align with our organization’s values. This year’s SWE annual conference and associated meetings are planned for Houston in October 2022. This event is expected to bring more than 15,000 people to the city with significant economic contributions to the airport, local restaurants, hotels, and other businesses in the downtown area.

The unwelcoming environment in your state for women, transgender, and gender non-conforming individuals created through these policies makes the state of Texas untenable as a location for any future events. The Houston conference will be SWE’s last event in Texas while these policies and legislation remain in effect.

Study after study has shown that diversity leads to innovation and ultimately to business success. Your actions, and the actions of the Texas legislature, work against diversity, equity, and inclusion. Policies such as these stymie progress during a time when we desperately need engineers, scientists, mathematicians, and technologists to help create a better world for all.

Respectfully signed,

Society of Women Engineers Board of Directors

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