



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 16, 2019

Ms. Cynthia Tynan  
Senior Attorney & Public Information Coordinator  
The University of Texas System  
210 West 7th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2901

OR2019-19279

Dear Ms. Tynan:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 775616 (OGC# 190269).

The University of Texas at Austin (the "university") received a request for the bid tabulation and awarded contract pertaining to a specified bid solicitation. Although the university takes no position regarding whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure, you state release of the information at issue may implicate the proprietary interests of the following third parties: Climate Solutions; Entech Sales and Service, Inc.; Hot Rod Mechanical, Inc.; Kilgore Industries, LP; and Mechanical & Process Systems, LLC. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation demonstrating, the university notified these third parties of the present request for information and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from any

of the notified third parties explaining why the information at issue should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude any of the third parties have a protected proprietary interest in the information at issue. *See id.* § 552.110; Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Accordingly, the university may not withhold any portion of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest a notified third party may have in it. The university must release the submitted information.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at [http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl\\_ruling\\_info.shtml](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml), or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Blake Brennan  
Attorney  
Open Records Division

BB/mo

Ref: ID# 775616

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

5 Third Parties  
(w/o enclosures)