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**For more information contact:
Tim Conger @ 512-480-0637**

**Statement from Margaret Greenshield, chair of the Texas Alliance of Nonsubscribers,
on the West, Texas fertilizer plant explosion**

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost loved ones and with those injured in this terrible tragedy.

“The West, Texas fertilizer plant accident reinforces the importance of workplace safety and worker protections. Members of the Texas Alliance of Nonsubscribers are responsible employers that not only maintain strong occupational injury benefit plans but emphasize ongoing efforts to identify and address workplace hazards. The fact that this accident occurred outside of working hours does not diminish the horrible loss of life suffered by courageous first responders.

“Texas nonsubscription is a mature and tested system that continues to allow employers the ability to design benefit programs that meet the specific needs of their employees. By opting out of the state system, nonsubscribers are stripped of certain common law defenses and have full negligence liability exposure to their employees.

“Operating a hazardous business without protections for workers and their families is indefensible. Companies that choose this path subject themselves to the full weight of our civil justice system and the legal remedies available to all Texans.

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The Texas Alliance of Nonsubscribers is a nonprofit trade association of responsible employers that manage their own occupational injury programs. The goal of the Alliance is to increase the understanding of the option that some employers have selected to manage their occupational injury programs outside of the Texas Workers’ Compensation System – an approach known as nonsubscription.