

TO ANDREW JACKSON  
Washington, Texas, February 16, 1844

Venerated Friend:

It is natural to suppose that the subject of the annexation of Texas to the United States has commanded the most profound deliberation of which I am capable. So far as I am concerned, or my hearty cooperation required, I am determined upon immediate annexation to the United States.

Texas, with peace, could exist without the United States, but the United States can not, without great hazard to the security of their institutions, exist without Texas.

Situated as Texas is, in point of locality, with peace she would have nothing to apprehend for years to come. Other nations would not dread her rivalry, but rather count her friendship for commercial advantage. Her people would have nothing to divert them from their agricultural pursuits. Her advancement in the arts of peace and commerce would be inevitable. With a government requiring trifling expenditures, and a tariff much lower than that of the United States, she would invite the commerce of all nations to her ports, as is already, to some extent, the case

But, on the other hand, by annexation these advantages would be secured to the American merchant, to the exclusion of the European, for we should then be but one Government, and, consequently, in the markets of Texas, no duties could be levied upon home manufactures. Thus situated, Texas might remain at peace for a half-century, nor is it probable that she would even then have war, unless it was with Mexico.

Furthermore, I wish to reside in a land where all will be subordinate to law, and where none dare to defy its mandates. I have arrived at that period of life when I desire retirement, and assurance that whatever I possess will be secured to me by just laws wisely administered.

Now, my venerated friend, you will perceive that Texas is presented to the United States, as a bride adorned for her espousal. But if, now so confident of the union, she should be rejected, her mortification would be indescribable. She has been sought by the United States, and this is the third time she has consented.

Truly your friend,  
Sam Houston