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The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator Royce West
District 23

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July 10, 2003

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Attorney General
Office of Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711-2548


Dear Attorney General Abbott:

I am writing to express my concern with your office's recent hiring of Andy Taylor. According to a news article in the July 10, 2003 issue of the Austin American Statesman, Mr. Taylor has been hired to defend the Texans for a Republican Majority, a political action committee engineered by U.S. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Sugar Land. According to the same news report, that group spent \$1.4 million in Texas legislative races during the last election cycle and several public interest groups complained that the groups actions violated the use of corporate money in political campaigns. Whether factual or not, Mr. DeLay's has also been characterized as being the driving force behind the current effort to redistrict the congressional maps in Texas for purely political reasons.

In addition, the article goes on to point out that Mr. Taylor's also represents the Texas Association of Business in an investigation with issues similar to those involved with the Texans for a Republican Majority. This investigation involves the possible use of \$1.9 million of corporate funds to elect a Republican majority in the Texas House.

Although Mr. Taylor's representation of the State may not be illegal or unethical, the perception is obviously different. I do not question Mr. Taylor's ability or expertise in redistricting, however, the attorney representing the State in a congressional redistricting case should be above reproach and free of any implication of political partisanship. Given the fact that tax payer dollars are being used to support your efforts, I would encourage you to remove any perception of possible political partisanship in this matter.

Sincerely,


Royce West
Senate District 23

RW/cc

cc Dave McNeely



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