

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2006

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor
State of Texas
PO Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Perry:

On January 20, 2006 seven elected U.S. Representatives from Texas contacted you in opposition to your decision to spend over \$1 million in Texas taxpayer funds on Washington lobbyists that have never even contacted a significant portion of the Texas delegation. As of this writing, we have not received any response.

Many Texans, apparently including the Republican Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Texas House, oppose these expenditures because Texas has thirty-two elected U.S. Representatives and two U.S. Senators to serve Texas' interests in Washington. In addition, the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations maintains a permanent presence in Washington to communicate the priorities of the State of Texas to those elected representatives. In response to criticism, your office has made a number of highly questionable public statements to justify this expenditure of taxpayer funds on Washington lobbyists.

Voters will find it insulting that you—and you alone—give credit to these Washington lobbyists for many of the bipartisan accomplishments of the Texas delegation on issues of great importance to our constituents. For example, the Texas delegation has aggressively worked together for many years to amend the U.S. Internal Revenue Code to include a state sales tax deduction. The Texas delegation was responsible for the 2-year deduction Congress approved in 2004, not your high-priced Washington lobbyists.

In another shocking claim, your office has stated these same Washington lobbyists are also responsible for increasing Texas' share of highway funding. We believe that Texas highway funding share was improved by the united Texas delegation's diligent legislative efforts in 2005 without the assistance of outside lobbyists. As a result of your office's recent public statements, we have the following questions:

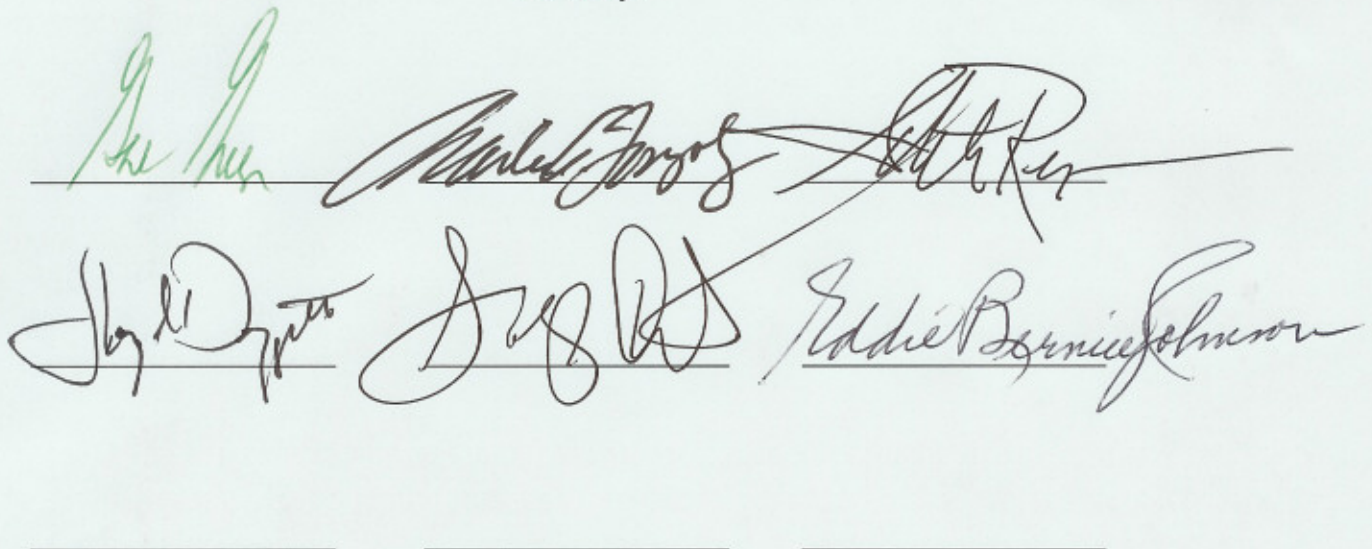
- Did your lobbyists tell you that they were responsible for the state sales tax deduction or the increase in Texas' share of highway funding?

- If not, then why would you give the credit for these efforts to your Washington lobbyists instead of to the elected Texas delegation, which includes members of your own Republican Party?
- If so, did any Texas Members of Congress verify the claims that these lobbyists were critical to the state sales tax deduction or the Texas highway funding share increase?

We see only two possible explanations for these dubious assertions that various pieces of pro-Texas legislation are the work of your high-priced Washington lobbyists. First, your Washington lobbyists may have hoodwinked you by claiming credit for work done by the elected Texas delegation on a bipartisan basis. Given that a number of lobbyists such as Jack Abramoff and Michael Scanlon have recently pleaded guilty in federal court to defrauding their clients, we cannot rule out this possibility and we urge you to investigate this immediately. On the other hand, perhaps you agree that the Texas delegation is responsible for these legislative actions, but you give credit to your Washington lobbyists in an attempt to justify their high-priced contracts.

Please provide a response to our questions by April 17, 2006. Again, we want to extend our offer to listen extremely closely to any request from the State of Texas for federal action on any issue, and you can call us at any time. Texas is blessed with a Congressional delegation that serves on the vast majority of Congressional committees who work hard for their salaries. We encourage you to take advantage of the Texas delegation, instead of belittling their accomplishments by attributing them to your lobbyists.

Sincerely,

The block contains several handwritten signatures in green and black ink, each written over a horizontal line. The signatures are: a green signature, a black signature, a black signature, a black signature, a black signature, and a black signature. Below these are two more horizontal lines, one of which is partially crossed by a horizontal line.