

December 29, 2006

Dear Fellow House Members:

We want all members of the legislature to know that we firmly support Tom Craddick's re-election as our Speaker. He is known for fairness and making tough decisions, qualities that are indispensable to the House of Representatives. His critics can't attack his honesty, his character or his accomplishments.

We know that without Tom's unwavering focus the many accomplishments that we have achieved during the last two regular sessions and numerous special sessions would not have been possible. He has provided leadership when prioritizing the budget, working to bring the state from a \$10 billion deficit to a \$15 billion surplus. This allowed the state to absorb unexpected costs due to the hurricanes in 2005. This year it gave the Legislature the ability to put more money into our public schools, provide Texans much needed property tax relief, and give teachers a well deserved pay raise.

Speaker Craddick has also shown leadership when it comes to our most vulnerable citizens by supporting serious reforms and restructuring of the agencies and institutions responsible for the protection and placement of abused and neglected children into foster care. Texas has also become a leader among the states by passing model tort reform legislation that could not have possible without his support.

In an effort to better reflect the diverse and ever changing face of Texas, Speaker Craddick has reached out across party lines and has appointed more minority members into leadership positions than in any other time in the Legislature's history. This diversity has helped build a spirit of bipartisanship and respect across the aisle.

We, the undersigned committee chairs, want to see Tom Craddick returned as Speaker. We don't want to lose Tom Craddick's leadership. It is best for Texas and he has earned our support.

Sincerely,

Chairman Rick Hardcastle, Committee on Agriculture and Livestock
Chairwoman Norma Chavez, Committee on Border and International Affairs
Chairwoman Helen Giddings, Committee on Business and Industry
Chairwoman Beverly Woolley, Committee on Calendars
Chairman Jerry Madden, Committee on Corrections
Chairman Wayne Smith, Committee on County Affairs
Chairman Harvey Hilderbran, Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Chairman Frank Corte, Committee on Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations
Chairman Buddy West, Committee on Energy Resources
Chairman Dennis Bonnen, Committee on Environmental Regulation
Chairman Burt Solomons, Committee on Financial Institutions
Chairman Kevin Bailey, Committee on General Investigating and Ethics
Chairwoman Geanie Morrison, Committee on Higher Education
Chairman John Smithee, Committee on Insurance
Chairman Will Hartnett, Committee on Judiciary
Chairman Harold Dutton, Committee on Juvenile Justice and Family Issues
Chairwoman Anna Mowery, Committee on Land and Resource Management
Chairman Joe Driver, Committee on Law Enforcement
Chairman Kino Flores, Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures
Chairman Fred Hill, Committee on Local Government Ways and Means
Chairman Robert Puente, Committee on Natural Resources
Chairwoman Dianne Delisi, Committee on Public Health
Chairman Joe Crabb, Committee on Redistricting
Chairman Phil King, Committee on Regulated Industries
Chairman David Swinford, Committee on State Affairs
Chairman Mike Krusee, Committee on Transportation
Chairman Jim Keffer, Committee on Ways and Means