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Former DeLay chief of staff funneling Texas taxpayer dollars to Republican politicians

~Dunnam calls on Perry to cancel his \$180,000/year lobby deal with Drew Maloney~

Austin, Texas// Yesterday, House Democratic Leader Jim Dunnam wrote and asked Governor Perry to immediately cancel the contract with Washington D.C. lobbyist Todd Boulanger (and his lobby firm Cassidy and Associates) that Governor Perry approved through the Texas Office of State Federal Relations (OSFR). Today, Representative Dunnam wrote Governor Perry and asked the Governor to **immediately cancel the lobby contract with Drew Maloney and his K Street lobby firm, The Federalist Group.**

“Governor Perry should not continue to waste huge sums of taxpayer money to fund the unnecessary lobby contract of another man who is directly involved in the unseemly activities of Tom DeLay,” said Dunnam. “Why do we need to spend over \$1.1 million state tax dollars on lobbyists when Texas is home to 32 Congressmen and women, 2 Senators, and the President of the United States?”

Mr. Maloney is the **former chief of staff to former Majority Leader Tom DeLay and one of his closest confidants**. After Maloney left this position in March 2002, he became a principal in the Republican lobbying firm, The Federalist Group. Shortly after joining the Federalist Group, Maloney was tapped to lead the “Team DeLay” meetings, which consisted of former DeLay staffers.ⁱ

In June of 2002, Maloney hosted a fundraiser benefiting TRMPAC and ARMPAC at The Homestead, a historic luxury resort in Virginia. Mr. Maloney offered five energy companies the opportunity to meet and play golf with his former boss, Congressman DeLay. The House Ethics Committee admonished DeLay for participating in the fundraising event since it gave the appearance that donors were entitled to special access to Mr. DeLay.ⁱⁱ

Mr. Maloney has acknowledged that Warren RoBold (the TRMPAC fundraiser Tom DeLay hired who is now under criminal indictment) arranged a breakfast with Tom Craddick in October of 2002.ⁱⁱⁱ Shortly thereafter, illegal corporate money raised by Mr. RoBold and dispersed by Mr. DeLay helped elect a Republican majority in the Texas House, which in turn elected Tom Craddick Speaker. A few months later, Mr. Maloney received a \$180,000 per year lobby contract that Governor Perry approved.

According to the Comptroller of Public Accounts, Mr. Maloney was paid a total of \$435,000 by Texas taxpayers from March 26, 2003, through October 24, 2005. On November 16, 2005, Mr. Maloney’s exorbitant lobby contract, that will pay him an additional \$220,000 through August 31, 2007, was renewed with the Governor’s approval.^{iv}

Before the Governor hired Mr. Maloney to lobby, he made a mere \$250 in political contributions from 2000-2002. Since the Governor gave Mr. Maloney his \$180,000 per year lobby contract, Mr. Maloney doled out

more than \$75,000 in political contributions, all of which have gone to Republican candidates, Republican PAC's, and Republican causes.^v

“It’s pretty clear that Mr. Maloney is taking the \$180,000 per year he’s getting paid from Texas taxpayers and turning right around and funneling a big chunk of that to Republican politicians,” said Dunnam.

Per the attached chart, Mr. Maloney’s generosity directly coincides with Governor Perry’s approval of a lobby contract that has funneled Texas taxpayer money to Republican campaign coffers. A small sample of Mr. Maloney’s more than \$75,000 in contributions include \$5000 to the RNC on 8/16/2004, \$500 to Bob Ney’s American Liberty Political Action Committee on 5/7/2004, \$1500 to the Tom DeLay Congressional Committee on 10/3/2004, and \$2500 to Tom DeLay’s Americans for a Republican Majority Political Action Committee on 12/31/2004.^{vi}

“This is just one more example of the Republican culture of corruption where taxpayer dollars get funneled through a Tom DeLay crony back to Republican politicians,” said Dunnam. “This is unethical and unseemly. Since the Governor approved Mr. Maloney’s lobby contract, the Governor needs to put an end to this immediately.”

When it came to political contributions, Mr. Maloney seemed to have a special place in his heart for his former boss, Tom DeLay. In November of 2005, Mr. Maloney and three other Federalist Group employees, Wayne Berman, Chris Giblin, and James Jay Baker, were hosts for a fundraiser benefiting Tom DeLay. According to the Washington Post, host committee members (i.e. Mr. Maloney) were expected to give the maximum (a \$2100 personal contribution), or to raise \$5000 for DeLay's reelection campaign.^{vii}

Mr. DeLay was not the only republican Congressman or republican candidate from Texas in whom Mr. Maloney took a special interest. Texas republicans who took Mr. Maloney’s money include the following Republican Congressmen; Joe Barton, Kenny Marchant, Pete Sessions, John Carter, Randy Neugebauer, John Culberson, Jeb Hensarling, Michael McCaul, Michael Burgess, and Louie Gohmert.^{viii} Mr. Maloney even tried to help defeat a tenured Democrat, Congressman Chet Edwards, by contributing to his unsuccessful opponent, Arlene Wohlgermuth.

With the recent extension of the Todd Boulanger and Drew Maloney contracts, Governor Perry will be wasting more than \$1.1 million of Texas taxpayers’ hard-earned money on lobby contracts for these two Abramoff and DeLay cronies.

“Given the ongoing criminal investigations, and the guilty pleas made by Mr. Abramoff and former Tom DeLay staffer Michael Scanlon, how can the Governor justify a \$220,000 lobby contract with Mr. Maloney, especially when more than \$75,000 of that money is flowing right back to Republican politicians?” wondered Dunnam.

The people of Texas are counting on Governor Perry to do the right thing and cancel the unnecessary and exorbitant lobby contract he has with former chief of staff to Tom DeLay, Drew Maloney.

“It is unacceptable for Texas taxpayers to spend almost \$700,000 to line the pockets of Republican politicians through a Tom DeLay crony,” concluded Dunnam.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ The New Republic, June 20, 2005

ⁱⁱ Washington Post, October 8, 2004 and House Ethics Committee letter October 4, 2004

ⁱⁱⁱ Houston Chronicle, April 7, 2005

^{iv} Texas Register, December 2, 2005

^v www.campaignmoney.com

^{vi} www.campaignmoney.com

^{vii} Washington Post, November 12, 2005

^{viii} www.campaignmoney.com