



## **TREY MARTINEZ FISCHER**

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### **Chairman Martinez Fischer Reacts to Bonnen-Sullivan Audio**

**AUSTIN** -- Today, Michael Q. Sullivan of Empower Texans released audio tapes recorded during a June 12 meeting with Texas House Speaker Dennis Bonnen and Ways & Means Chairman Dustin Burrows. Chairman Trey Martinez Fischer is referenced twice in the hour long audio recording.

#### **Chairman Martinez Fischer issued the following statement:**

"When Texas Scorecard first published the allegations against Speaker Bonnen and Chairman Burrows, I chose to reserve judgement until the facts were laid bare. Having now listened to the tapes myself and taking into account the months of denials, deflection, and misleading half-truths from the Speaker, there is so much I would like to say. It is tempting to give an emotional response as I process this new information. However, for the time being I will resist those impulses so as to not distract from the most important issue raised by the tapes.

For now, we must not lose focus on what sits at the core of this scandal: the fact that Speaker Bonnen's conduct is a betrayal of the Texas House. It is troubling to hear the Speaker attack members of his own party for representing their districts while at the same time attacking the human dignity of those who disagree with him politically. The despicable nature of his personal attacks is unbecoming of his position, and his utter lack of judgement has irreparably lost him the confidence of the very members who elected him. In my seventeen years in the Texas House, I've learned that it is nearly impossible for a presiding officer to continue to serve when that foundation of trust and mutual respect has been broken.

Today's revelation raises significant questions for Bonnen, and he owes it to every member of the House to accept responsibility and hold himself accountable. As we continue to process the revelations from the tapes, I will only ask my colleagues to remember that this institution is greater than any one individual. We will be defined by how we choose to resolve this incident—not as Republicans or Democrats, but as elected members with a responsibility to protect the dignity of the House."

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