



Scott Turner

Texas House of Representatives
District 33

November 24, 2014

The Honorable Joe Straus
7373 Broadway, Suite 202-A
San Antonio, TX 78209

Dear Speaker Straus:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I sent to Representative Charlie Geren in response to comments he recently made to the Austin publication *Quorum Report*.

As I stated in my letter to Representative Geren, members of the Texas House deserve the opportunity to participate in a public vote and to make their voices heard on the important matter of House Leadership. In light of Representative Geren's public remarks and rather than having our respective sides each separately ask the Texas Secretary of State for a record vote, it would do much to eliminate the controversy over this matter for us to act jointly in penning the letter.

I would appreciate the courtesy of your reply with regard to my request. Thank you for your continued service to the people of the great state of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Turner".

Scott Turner
State Representative



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Texas House of Representatives
District 33

November 24, 2014

The Honorable Charlie Geren
1011 Roberts Cutoff
River Oaks, TX 76114

Dear Representative Geren:

You were recently quoted in *Quorum Report* stating you plan to write a letter to the Texas Secretary of State requesting a record vote in the upcoming election for Speaker of the House of Representatives when the 84th Texas Legislature convenes. As you know, I have also stated my intent to take my campaign for Speaker to the floor of the House for a public vote. You correctly noted that current House rules and the temporary rules which will be adopted for the session's opening day allow a single member to request a roll call vote. However, these rules are subject to change. What cannot be changed is the requirement of our state constitution. Article III Section 12 of the Texas Constitution provides that "[t]he yeas and nays of the members of either house on any other question shall, at the desire of any three members present, be entered on the journals."

Members of the Texas House deserve the opportunity to participate in a public vote and to make their voices heard on the important matter of House Leadership. During each legislative session, thousands of record votes are cast. On nearly all of these votes, members express disagreement about the merits of each bill or measure, and these disagreements stem from broader disagreements about the direction we should take as a state. But after each of these votes, we shake hands and continue to do the work of serving the people of the State of Texas. A vote for Speaker of the Texas House should be no different. Expressing preferences with regard to House leadership on the record is nothing any representative should be apprehensive of, as each member should be free to vote his/her conscience, honoring their principles and serving the interests of their constituents.

Rather than our respective sides each requesting a record vote, I am asking you and Speaker Joe Straus to join me in penning a joint letter to the Texas Secretary of State requesting a record vote in the upcoming Speaker election. Such a letter would meet the requirements of Article III Section 12 and would put to rest any controversy over this matter.

I would appreciate the courtesy of your reply with regard to my request. Thank you for your continued service to the people of the great state of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Scott", written in a cursive style.

Scott Turner
State Representative

cc: The Honorable Joe Straus