



# The Senate of The State of Texas

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**Senator John Whitmire**

Dean of the Texas Senate

September 22, 2011

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Mr. Brad Livingston  
Executive Director  
Texas Department of Criminal Justice  
209 W. 14th Street, Suite 500  
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Last meal before executions

Dear Mr. Livingston:

I have long been concerned and opposed to the practice of providing a last meal of choice to death row inmates just prior to their execution. It is extremely inappropriate to give a person sentenced to death such a privilege. One which the perpetrator did not provide to their victim.

I have yielded to TDCJ judgment in the past, but now enough is enough. For TDCJ to allow inmate Brewer to order, as reported in the Houston Chronicle, two chicken fried steaks, a triple meat bacon cheeseburger, a cheese omelet, a large bowl of fried okra, three fajitas, a pint of Blue Bell ice cream, and a pound of barbecue with a half loaf of white bread is ridiculous.

I am asking that you end this practice immediately or I am prepared to do so by statute next session. Death row inmates before execution should be fed the same meal as any other inmate on the unit the day of the scheduled execution. I hope that someone at TDCJ decides to use some good judgment.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN WHITMIRE

JW:lc

CC: Governor Rick Perry  
Lt. Governor David Dewhurst  
Speaker Joe Straus  
Chairman Oliver Bell

