



May 27, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your efforts to help Americans respond to and recover from the disasters that have recently affected many regions of our nation.

We write today to support Texas' efforts to secure assistance and relief for the individuals, local governments and first responders who have been devastated and exhausted by years of wildfires. Since the fire season began, local and state responders, including many volunteers, have battled more than 10,500 fires, which have burned more than 2.7 million acres and destroyed more than 400 homes. We respectfully request you approve Governor Rick Perry's appeal for a major disaster declaration to allow our communities to receive the federal assistance they desperately need to continue protecting lives and property affected by this season's wildfires.

Over the past three years, farmers, ranchers and residents across Texas have been heavily impacted by wildfires. The most recent bout of fires, which have occurred since December 21, 2010, have been considered by many as the worst in history. The wildfires have affected more acreage and counties than previous wildfires, and have in many cases overwhelmed public safety resources and communities that were already stressed due to three preceding years of active fires. As elected officials representing all of Texas' 254 counties, we believe these prolonged fires and their impact to Americans are disastrous and comparable to past wildfire Presidential disaster declarations.

We support Governor Perry's appeal and respectfully request your full assistance in providing any and all resources of the federal government to aid those affected by Texas' wildfire disaster. If we may supply any additional information to demonstrate the needs of our constituents, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Staples". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Todd Staples
Commissioner of Agriculture

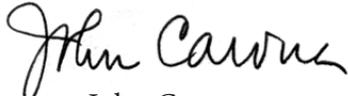




Senator Brian Birdwell
District 22



Senator Glenn Hegar
District 18



Senator John Carona
District 16



Senator Joan Huffman
District 17



Senator Bob Deuell
District 2



Senator Jane Nelson
District 12



Senator Kevin Eltife
District 1



Senator José Rodríguez
District 29



Senator Craig Estes
District 30



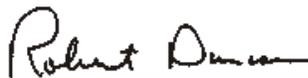
Senator Kel Seliger
District 31



Senator Troy Fraser
District 24



Senator Jeff Wentworth
District 25



Senator Robert Duncan
District 28





Representative Jose Aliseda
District 35



Representative Wayne Christian
District 9



Representative Rodney Anderson
District 106



Representative Tom Craddick
District 82



Representative Jimmie Don Aycock
District 54



Representative Brandon Creighton
District 16



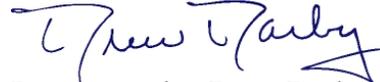
Representative Marva Beck
District 57



Representative Myra Crownover
District 64



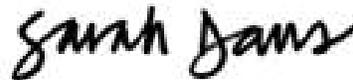
Representative Dennis Bonnen
District 25



Representative Drew Darby
District 72



Representative Fred Brown
District 14



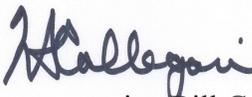
Representative Sarah Davis
District 134



Representative Cindy Burkett
District 101



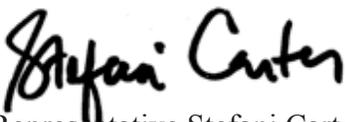
Representative Joe Driver
District 113



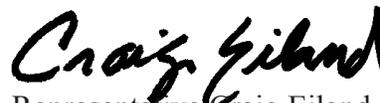
Representative Bill Callegari
District 132



Representative Harold Dutton
District 142



Representative Stefani Carter
District 102



Representative Craig Eiland
District 23





Representative John Frullo
District 84



Representative Jim Keffer
District 60



Representative Pete Gallego
District 74



Representative Phil King
District 61



Representative John Garza
District 117



Representative Susan King
District 71



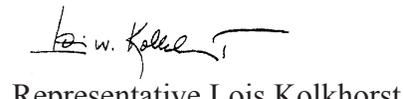
Representative Charlie Geren
District 99



Representative Tracy King
District 80



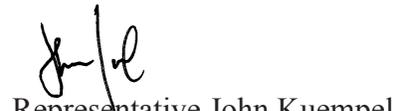
Representative Larry Gonzales
District 52



Representative Lois Kolkhorst
District 13



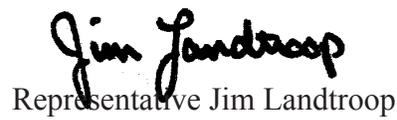
Representative Ryan Guillen
District 31



Representative John Kuempel
District 44



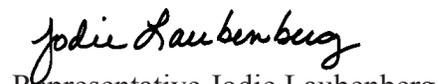
Representative Rick Hardcastle
District 68



Representative Jim Landtroop
District 85



Representative Jason Isaac
District 45



Representative Jodie Laubenberg
District 85



Representative Eric Johnson
District 100



Representative Ken Legler
District 144





Representative Lanham Lyne
District 69



Representative Dee Margo
District 78



Representative Sid Miller
District 59



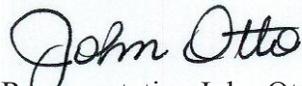
Representative Sergio Muñoz, Jr.
District 36



Representative Jim Murphy
District 133



Representative Rob Orr
District 58



Representative John Otto
District 18



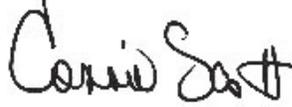
Representative Joe Pickett
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Representative Debbie Riddle
District 150



Representative Charles Schwertner
District 20



Representative Connie Scott
District 34



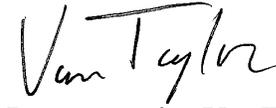
Representative Wayne Smith
District 128



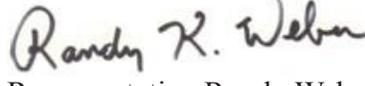
Representative Burt Solomons
District 65



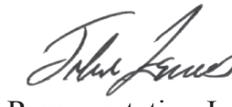
Representative Larry Taylor
District 24



Representative Van Taylor
District 66



Representative Randy Weber
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Representative John Zerwas
District 28



Representative Bill Zedler
District 96

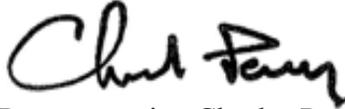




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Representative Dan Flynn
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Representative Patricia Harless
District 126




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Representative Jerry Madden
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Representative Beverly Woolley
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Representative Paul Workman
District 47


Representative Jim Jackson
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