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CRIMINAL JUSTICE



COMMITTEES:  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS  
NOMINATIONS

SENATOR GLENN HEGAR  
DISTRICT 18

July 6, 2010

Mr. Wayne Navarro  
Chairman of the Board  
Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.  
3910 Kirby Drive, Suite 131  
Houston, Texas 77098

Dear Mr. Navarro:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding project labor agreements executed on the South Texas Project (STP) expansion project. This is a very important issue, especially since STP is located in Senate District 18 and will likely employ many constituents.

Because of the concerns you brought to my attention, my office contacted NRG Energy. According to NRG, everything they have done with regard to the STP expansion has been focused on bringing greater certainty to on-time, on budget construction to the exacting standards expected from a nuclear power plant. The Project Labor Agreement (PLA) is designed to ensure they have the necessary pool of qualified workers to build the site. They do not feel the PLA creates a union-only workforce but rather ensures they have the expertise and numbers of people where they exist in the unions. Where greater expertise or volume is needed beyond what the unions can provide, they have assured me they will hire from non-union resources, like ABC.

The construction of STP 3&4 will require 6,000 highly skilled workers. While they plan to hire union where qualified union workers are available, there will be a broad range of skills required for the construction jobs and they anticipate working with many of the Texas-based companies represented by ABC to take advantage of expertise they have that is not available in the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trade Division (BCTD).

The BCTD is focused on providing a competitive workforce that can provide the work efficiently and effectively. I expect that the majority of onsite workers, if not all, provided for the project, whether union or non-union, will be Texas-based workers. While Texas legislation that has been passed to help make nuclear construction in Texas viable, there are no public funds going to the construction of STP 3&4.

STP 3&4 will employ many Senate District 18 constituents and power from STP 3&4 will be sold in the competitive market. It is important that the project be built at a competitive cost, otherwise it may not be built at all.

Thank you again for contacting my office regarding this issue. I hope this answers any questions you may have about the STP expansion project. If I may be of assistance to you in the future regarding this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me. As always, it is a pleasure to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn Hegar".

Glenn Hegar

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JOHN CORNYN  
TEXAS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

July 14, 2010

Mr. Russell Hamley  
16410 Koester  
Houston, Texas 77040

Dear Mr. Hamley:

Thank you for stopping by my office in Washington, DC. It was a pleasure to meet with you during your stay in our nation's capital. Enclosed is a photograph taken during our meeting.

I appreciate having the opportunity to represent the interests of all Texans in the United States Senate. Please do not hesitate to contact me again if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,



JOHN CORNYN  
United States Senator

Enclosure

