

November 8, 2019

The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor
Office of the Texas Governor
P.O. Box 78711
Austin, TX 78711-2428

David Gutiérrez, Chair
Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles
and the Executive Clemency Section
8610 Shoal Creek Blvd.
Austin, TX 78757

re: Rodney Reed Reprieve

Dear Governor Abbott, Chair Gutiérrez, and Board Members:

We write to urge you to grant a reprieve to Rodney Reed.

As you know, the case that put Mr. Reed on death row has been called into serious question by compelling new witness statements and forensic evidence along with evidentiary gaps that could be filled with additional investigation and testing. We appreciate how difficult decisions like this are and know how seriously you take them, but only you can postpone his execution to allow these new leads to be properly explored.

One thing we often grapple with when discussing criminal justice reform is balancing justice with mercy, particularly when we consider a heinous crime. Executing Rodney Reed without certainty about his guilt erodes public trust—not only in capital punishment, but in Texas justice itself.

Mr. Reed's case recalls the sentiment then-Governor George W. Bush expressed in 1998 when he commuted the sentence against Henry Lee Lucas in the face of grave doubt about his guilt. "As a supporter of the death penalty . . . I feel a special obligation to make sure the State of Texas never executes a person for a crime they may not have committed," he said. "I take this action so that all Texans can continue to trust the integrity and fairness of our criminal justice system."

Similarly, granting Mr. Reed a reprieve until the new developments in his case are fully resolved will allow the cloud of doubt surrounding his guilt to be lifted. Only then should our justice system proceed with decisions that cannot be undone.



We thank you for your thoughtful consideration and your leadership on this issue.

Respectfully,



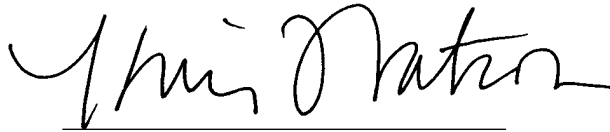
Senator Judith Zaffirini



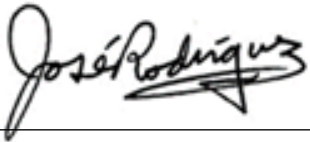
Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.



Senator Royce West



Senator Kirk Watson




Senator José Rodríguez



Senator Kelly Hancock



Senator Brandon Creighton



Senator Charles Perry



Senator Lois Kolkhorst



Senator Bob Hall



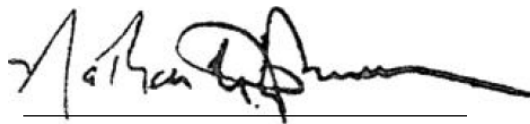
Senator Paul Bettencourt



Senator Bryan Hughes



Senator Carol Alvarado



Senator Nathan Johnson



Senator Pat Fallon



Senator Beverly Powell

