

Vilma Luna  
State Representative District 33  
4525 Gollhar, Suite 200  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411

February 9, 2005

Mr. Mike Lavigne  
Present Chief of Staff  
Texas Democratic Party  
707 Rio Grande Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Lavigne:

I have reviewed with no surprise your ill-conceived February 7 letter to me, gratuitously copied by you to both the *Quorum Report* and to the *Capitol Insider*.

Unlike most Texans, you clearly are unaware of my demonstrated commitment to children, the disabled, the elderly and the poor during the last legislative session, when I diligently worked with Senator Judith Zaffirini and others to restore hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for programs that serve our most vulnerable citizens. Since you never have met or spoken to our party's Nueces County Chair, you most certainly cannot be aware of the views of the voters in my district, and whether they feel it is in their best interests for their State Representative to serve as the Vice-Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and as a member of its Ways & Means Committee.

As you well know, I always have sought to protect the interests of my constituents, and of all Texans, by responsibly and proactively engaging the leadership in a constructive dialogue as to the steps which will best serve all Texans. I have done so in a responsible strategy of meaningful discussion with the leadership, rather than choosing a strategy to accomplish nothing by petulantly lobbing spitballs at them from the bleachers of inactivity located far from the actual playing field of today's real legislative process. An effective Texas House of Representatives requires all Texans to conscientiously engage each other to meet the needs of our citizens, and I have done that.

I look forward to continue working with all Democrats, including even you, in our effort to ensure that those presently in control of Texas' government serve the needs of all Texans -- Democrats and Republicans alike. I have done that for twelve years now in the Texas House -- long before you were appointed, not elected, to your present post -- and pledge to continue to do so in the future -- long after you are gone.

Sincerely,



Vilma Luna, State Representative, District 33

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