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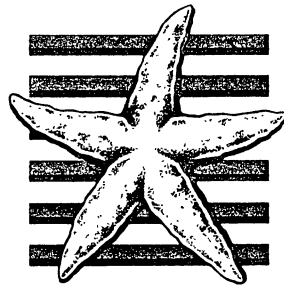
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Texas State Aquarium™

April 6, 1990

The Honorable Lauro Cavazos
Secretary of Education
Washington, D. C. 20202-0100

Attention: Mr. Bruce Simon

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are delighted that you have accepted our invitation to tour the Texas State Aquarium. In accordance with instructions given to me by Mr. Bruce Simon during our telephone conversation on April 4, 1990, I wish to confirm the following information regarding your tour scheduled for Wednesday, April 11, 1990, at 4:30 p.m.

The Texas State Aquarium construction site is located on Corpus Christi Beach. From downtown Corpus Christi, proceed north across the Harbor Bridge and take the Timon Boulevard/Corpus Christi Beach Exit. Take an immediate right onto Surfside Boulevard, continuing on Surfside past the Best Western Sandy Shores Resort, until you reach Breakwater Avenue. Take a left onto Breakwater, and a right onto North Shoreline Boulevard. You may park at the end of North Shoreline Boulevard. I will meet you at the Aquarium's construction trailer located at this point.

Those accompanying me will be Dr. Quenton R. Dokken, Executive Director, Luther Jones, President, Tony Bonilla, Member of our Board of Trustees, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia, Member of our Advisory Committee.

We appreciate your taking the time from your busy schedule, and look forward to your visit.

Sincerely,

Lillian A. Murray
Development Director

LAM/mw

P.O. Box 331307 Corpus Christi, Texas 78463 (512) 880-5858
Office: One Shoreline Plaza, 1200 North Tower

REMARKS BY DR. HECTOR GARCIA
BEFORE THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING
APRIL, 1990

Mr. Chairman, I am privileged to speak before this Committee today to share my thoughts with you regarding the importance of Hispanic representation of a predominately Hispanic district.

I live in the 27th District of Texas, which is roughly 60%* Hispanic in population. Since 1982, we have been represented in the House of Representatives by my friend, Solomon P. Ortiz, who, like the vast majority of his district, shares a proud Hispanic heritage.

Today, I would like to address the importance of maintaining the current boundaries of the 27th Congressional District. The five counties that comprise the 27th district are small counties whose population shares many common interests, as well as needs. All five counties are bordered on the east by the Gulf of Mexico, in which many of the people living in these counties make their living.

The current geography is a direct result of the 1982 Voting Rights Act and the Supreme Court decision in Thornburg v. Gingles, mandating that State Legislatures create "minority districts" in areas where there is sufficient minority population concentration to do so.

Clearly, that was the case in South Texas. For many years, even decades, the good people of South Texas were proportionately out of sync with their elected representatives. Thanks to the 1982 Voting Rights Act, that non reflective representation has been repaired, and a member of the Hispanic community represents this district.

The current geography of the 27th is an even more direct result of the Texas State Supreme Court's intervention in 1982, when they realized that the configuration drawn up as result of the 1980 Census was still disproportionate, and they narrowed the district to these five coastal counties.

I also have concerns about the separation of Corpus Christi, which boasts a large Hispanic community, from the rest of the 27th. I believe that it would be a mistake to dilute the Hispanic community in Corpus by including the city in another district. That action would be unfair to the Hispanic population in Corpus Christi and contrary to the spirit of the 1982 Voting

Rights Act.

We are a district of predominately Mexican-American heritage and we are now represented in the United States Congress by a gentleman who is also of Mexican-American heritage. Solomon Ortiz has always been fair in his representation of this district, but more importantly, the perception of equality in South Texas is voluminous by simple virtue of his heritage.

True, fair and reflective representation was the intention of the Voting Rights Act, as well as the Court decision in Thornburg v. Gingles.

In closing, let me say that the Voting Rights Act accomplished its intended purpose in 1982, and this district is a shining result of the letter and the spirit of that law. The repair was made in 1982; the configuration of the 27th has worked well and satisfactorily for all her citizens.

I thank the committee for their time and their diligence.

*Source: Election Data Services, Inc. table (p. 51), Redistricting in the 1990s (1989, Population Reference Bureau)