

November 29, 1984

Hon. Jim Mattox  
Texas State Attorney General  
Austin, Texas

Dear Jim,

As a long-time supporter of yours, since your years in the U. S. Congress and more recently as our State Attorney General, I have recently become very concerned about the position you have taken on the farmworkers workers' compensation lawsuit, which has received very extensive news coverage in South Texas and all over the State.

Jim, the Hispanic Community is more solidly together on farm-worker issues than on all others, and we (your friends) are getting a lot of flak about what is perceived to be your obstructionist position in denying to that group, which is the most in need, what other workers have enjoyed for decades.

Jim, the Hispanic Community have traditionally been your natural and loyal allies. The word is now spreading fast that you have turned on us, and nobody understands why. The point is repeatedly made that the Austin District Court ruled in favor of the Farmworkers, and that, subsequently, the State Legislature passed a statute including Farmworkers in the provisions of the Workmens' Compensation Act.

In the face of all of the above, Jim, your insistence in seeking a higher Court that will reverse these much-deserved gains for Farmworkers is incomprehensible, coming from a decent progressive like yourself.

As a supporter and friend, Jim, I earnestly hope that you can somehow modify your position on this question, before matters deteriorate to the point that your stand becomes indefensible.

Jim, the Farm Bureaus, the Mobils, and such, are not going to be there when you need them; the Farmworkers and the Hispanics of Texas will, and you can take that to the bank. Please don't destroy deliberately those strong bonds with your traditional friends.

Sincerely,



R. R. Casso, M.D.