



REPRESENTATIVE WARREN CHISUM
CANDIDATE FOR SPEAKER OF THE TEXAS HOUSE

October 13, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Today I throw my hat, my experience, and my commitment to the House into the ring for consideration as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. Those of you who know me, know that this is not a decision I have entered into lightly, but like many of you I have come to realize that the time has come for us to unite behind a speaker that will lead the Texas House next session as we face our state's many challenges together.

The times demand a strong and decisive leader. The Texas House has enjoyed strong, experienced leadership under Speakers Laney and Craddick, who were fully supported by majorities of their respective political parties. Sadly, recent history has shown us that when a chamber's leadership does not enjoy majority support from his own party mixed with good support from the opposition party, his leadership is weak and ineffective. As a candidate for Speaker of the House, I will give Republicans and Democrats an opportunity to decide whether the Texas House wants to lead this session, or whether it doesn't.

Since 1989, I have served with you, lead with you, fought in the trenches with you, and submitted myself to the leadership of the speaker we all elected. You know my character, my trustworthiness, my fairness, and my faithfulness to conservative principles. In January, we will be facing the most difficult session Texas has ever faced. Together, we must find a way to appropriately fund the state's obligations while not raising taxes. This can only be done by reducing government budgets, a fight I have fought before, and won.

The budget is only one of our challenges; we must also face the contention that redistricting brings. I have served with you during the last three redistricting sessions, and know how to fairly navigate those treacherous waters while continuing the other serious business the House must complete for a successful session.

In deciding to run for Speaker of the House, I heavily weighed the experience of last session with the demands of the upcoming session. In earnest, we entered the 81st session with open minds, hoping for the brand of leadership Speaker Straus had pledged. However, his approach, guided by his inexperience, instead allowed the

minority party to control much of the session's agenda, and the result was no leadership during the total breakdown in the most critical days of the session. Speaker Straus has never served on Appropriations, never served on Ways and Means, has never even faced a difficult budget cycle, much less served as a member during a redistricting session. As the 82nd Legislature approaches, Texas demands a speaker who can successfully navigate these waters. I have the experience and skill that the House requires.

The vote for the Speaker is a decision made by us, by 150 individuals and whom we trust to lead us through 140 days. It is a vote about leadership, experience, and trust. I look forward to visiting with each of you soon about the challenges and opportunities ahead and how we can bridge those gaps together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren Chusim". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "W" and a distinct "C".