

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington

April 18, 2005

Public Information Officer
Office of the General Counsel
Office of the Governor of Texas
State Capitol
Room 2S.1
Austin, TX 78701

BY FAX: 512-463-1932

Re: Public Information Act Request

Dear Public Information Officer:

Pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act, Government Code, Chapter 552 (as amended), Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) seeks copies of any and all paper or electronic documents that the Governor's Office has received or generated between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 2002 that relate to the Office's efforts to shut down the Speaking Rock Casino, operated by the Tigua Tribe of El Paso, Texas (also known as the Tigua Indians of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo of El Paso). This request includes, but is not limited to, documents related to contacts between any member of current or previous Governor's staff and Jack Abramoff, Michael Scanlon and Ralph Reed.

In addition, please provide copies of any paper or electronic documents that the Governor's Office generated or received, including e-mail and telephone messages, between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 2002 that refer to the Tigua Tribe, the Louisiana Coushatta Tribe or any representative of those tribes, or to Jack Abramoff, Michael Scanlon or Ralph Reed.

Under Section 552.267(a) of the Texas Public Information Act, CREW requests that any fees associated with this request be waived. That section of the law reads:

“Waiver or Reduction of Charge for Providing Copy of Public Information. (a) A governmental body shall provide a copy of public information without charge or at a reduced charge if the governmental body determines that waiver or reduction of the charge is in the public interest because providing the copy of the information primarily benefits the general public.”

This request merits such an exemption because CREW is a non-profit charitable organization exclusively organized to promote the public interest. The Internal Revenue Service has recognized CREW as a non-profit, charitable organization under Sec. 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.

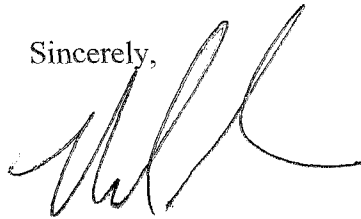
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In addition, CREW has no commercial interest in obtaining the information. By the very nature of our non-profit purpose, we have no commercial interests in general. Specifically, we have no commercial interests in the information sought in this request. Our purpose for obtaining these records is to further public understanding of the workings of government.

If you decide to deny any part of this request, including our request for a fee waiver under the public-interest exemption of the Texas Public Information Act, please inform me of the specific reasons for your denial. If you deny the fee waiver portion of this request, please provide me with a copy of the standards that you apply in evaluating and denying such requests. Finally, please inform me of any estimated costs before filling this request. Kindly respond to this request within the 10 days stipulated under the Texas Public Information Act. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melanie Sloan
Executive Director
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in
Washington