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May 16, 2007

Earlier today a draft letter on HB 218 was inadvertently released before I reviewed it. It does not represent my position on certain topics. The paragraph on Senator Whitmire went over the top. While I stand by what I, the Secretary of the Senate, Parliamentarian, and some press observed yesterday, the Senator is a personal friend of mine and goes hunting with me each fall. We were planning on letting him use a rifle this year, so I'm especially interested in Whitmire being real friendly with me before our hunting trip in October.

The attached letter reflects my views and my long-standing principle that while my Senate colleagues and I may disagree on certain issues from time to time, we are all first good Americans, and in the Senate, good friends.

Sincerely,

David Dewhurst
Lieutenant Governor