



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JOE STRAUS
SPEAKER

December 22, 2010

Mr. Randall Buck Wood
Ray, Wood & Bonilla
2700 Bee Caves Road
Austin, Texas 78746

Mr. Joseph M. Nixon
Beirne, Maynard & Parsons, L.L.P.
401 West 15th Street, Suite 845
Austin, Texas 78701

Gentlemen:

The Secretary of State has forwarded to my office a document entitled "Contestee's Special Exceptions" in the matter of the election contest for District 48 of the Texas House of Representatives. From the wording and context of the document it does not appear to be an answer to the petition initiating the election contest that was filed with the Secretary of State on Monday, December 20, 2010. At this time, my office has not received any other document purporting to be an answer from the contestee.

Under the Election Code, my duties as presiding officer of the House of Representatives in an election contest are limited to the appointment of a master of discovery for the contest and the referral of the contest to a committee. Further, the appointment of a master or a referral to a committee can occur only after my office has received the answer or the time for filing an answer has passed.

Accordingly, after a master is appointed and the contest is referred to a committee, I will forward copies of all documents that have been transmitted to my office by the Secretary of State to the master and the chair of the committee for their consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Straus".

Joe Straus
Speaker of the House

cc: Secretary of State Hope Andrade