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Dear Governor Perry:

We are writing to request the assistance of the State of Texas in carrying out an international legal obligation of the United States. Put simply, the United States seeks the help of the State of Texas.

The international legal obligation at issue concerns the claims of certain Mexican nationals in Texas and several other states under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, which among other things requires the United States, upon request, to notify Mexico of the arrest of one of its nationals. These claims were addressed in the International Court of Justice's *Avena* decision, and the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in *Medellin v. Texas*.

The United States attaches great importance to complying with its obligations under international law. To that end, the President sought to discharge the international obligation of the United States by having state courts address the Vienna Convention claims of the Mexican nationals at issue. The Supreme Court determined in *Medellin* that the Executive Branch could not direct state courts to provide such relief as a matter of domestic law. In so ruling, however, the Court recognized, as Texas has, that the *Avena* judgment continues to bind the United States as a matter of international law. Of course, after the *Avena* judgment, the United States withdrew from the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice with respect to matters arising under the Vienna Convention.

The United States has held intensive discussions with the Government of Mexico after the Supreme Court's decision. On June 5 Mexico nonetheless

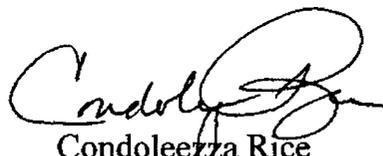
The Honorable  
Rick Perry,  
Governor of Texas,  
P.O. Box 12428,  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428.

made a new filing in the International Court of Justice regarding the *Avena* decision. We continue to seek a practical and timely way to carry out our nation's international legal obligation, a goal that the United States needs the assistance of Texas to achieve. In this connection, we respectfully request that Texas take the steps necessary to give effect to the *Avena* decision with respect to the convictions and sentences addressed therein. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss possible mechanisms for compliance with the *Avena* decision with you or your representatives.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Mukasey  
Attorney General



Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State