



December 18, 2009

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas
Price Daniel Sr. Bldg., 209 W. 14th St.
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear General Abbott,

In light of numerous scandals and investigations, the United States Congress voted in September to strip the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) of more than \$1.6 million in federal housing funds. Similarly, the United States Census Bureau revoked ACORN's role in conducting the 2010 census, and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) excluded ACORN from participating in its volunteer tax assistance programs.

We are extremely concerned that Texas agencies may still have contracts with, issue grants to, or maintain other business with ACORN, and we are requesting that you ensure that taxpayers' dollars are not going to community organization groups that are currently under investigation.

Allegations against ACORN include:

- ★ Vote fraud in several states
- ★ Financial misappropriation, including an internal cover-up of embezzlement
- ★ Assisting individuals with tax evasion
- ★ Assisting individuals with underage prostitution
- ★ Illegal use of tax-exempt charitable contributions for political purposes

These allegations are significant enough for Congress, the IRS, and the Census Bureau to cut off public funding and relationships with ACORN, and we believe the State of Texas must be vigilant in doing the same.

Private sector groups and non-profit organizations have a role to play in the business of our state, but we have an ethical obligation to the citizens of Texas to ensure that our private sector and non-profit partners are good actors.

ACORN and its affiliated community organization groups have failed this test, and it is incumbent upon us as legislators and you as a leader of a major state agency to ensure that ACORN is not benefitting from taxpayer dollars or conducting any business with the State of Texas.

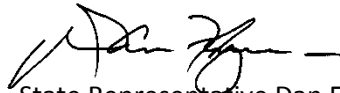
We respectfully request that you conduct a thorough review of your agency's spending, grant-making, and contracts to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not benefitting ACORN or any affiliated community organization groups. If your agency maintains contracts with, issues grants to, or works with ACORN in any way, we ask that you sever all financial support immediately.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and we look forward to an update from you on what extent, if any, your agency currently works with, funds, issues grants to, or maintains contracts with ACORN and its affiliated groups.

Sincerely,



State Representative Wayne Christian



State Representative Dan Flynn



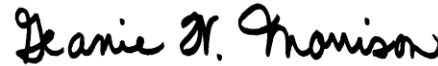
State Representative Ken Paxton



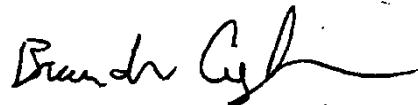
State Representative Phil King



State Representative Linda Harper-Brown



State Representative Geanie Morrison



State Representative Brandon Creighton



State Representative Larry Taylor



State Representative Warren Chisum



State Representative Jim Jackson



State Representative Jodie Laubenberg



State Representative Tan Parker



State Representative Leo Berman