



BORRIS L. MILES

STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: CRIMINAL JUSTICE • HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES • NATURAL RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • NOMINATIONS

November 13, 2019

Governor Greg Abbott
P.O. Box 78711
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

As you have now received calls and letters from my colleagues and countless Texans concerning the execution of Rodney Reed, please add my name to the growing list of individuals asking that you exercise diligence and at least reprieve Mr. Reed's sentence to ask the Board of Pardons and Paroles to investigate whether you should commute Mr. Reed's sentence given the totality of the circumstances.

Since Mr. Reed's conviction by an all white jury in Bastrop County, not only has forensic science advanced to be able to fill some of the evidentiary gaps in this case, but compelling witness statements have come to light which cast doubt on the facts upon which the jury relied for conviction. Postponing execution to investigate these facts is something we owe to all Texans and to our justice system.

Death is our justice system's ultimate penalty and cannot be undone, proceeding without absolute clarity erodes public confidence in our state government. Texas should not proceed with executions where key witnesses and experts have recanted their testimony, and where science has advanced to allow testing of new material. That new credible witnesses have come forward compounds the need for certainty.

I am not against the death penalty, but I am against how this state has imposed it throughout the years. I tried reforming this during the 86th Legislative Session, and understand your apprehension along with some of my colleagues. However many Senators are now asking you to make sure Texas is right on this one. I join them and ask you to reprieve Mr. Reed's execution so the Board of Pardons and Paroles can do its job and determine if Mr. Reed's sentence should be commuted. Please maintain the public trust and faith in our criminal justice system.

Keep the Faith, Keep the Fight,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Borris L. Miles", written over a white background.

Borris L. Miles
Senator, District 13

CAPITOL OFFICE:
P.O. Box 12068
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
(512) 463-0113
FAX: (512) 463-0006
DIAL 711 FOR RELAY CALLS

CENTRAL HOUSTON OFFICE:
5302 ALMEDA ROAD, SUITE A
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004
(713) 665-8322
FAX: (713) 665-0009

NORTHEAST OFFICE:
3300 LYONS AVENUE, SUITE 301
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77020
(713) 223-0387
FAX: (713) 223-0524

FORT BEND OFFICE:
2440 TEXAS PARKWAY, SUITE 110
MISSOURI CITY, TEXAS 77489
(281) 261-2360
FAX: (281) 261-4726