

From: BROBINSO--VUS0212A Date and time 05/20/91 09:17:46
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From: Bernie Robinson
Subject: Texas - Tort Reform Update

This week will be the culmination of the Texas Civil Justice League's (TCJL leads the business coalition) multi-year campaign to persuade the Texas Legislature to enact their first products statute (today there isn't any products liability statute). As you know, the Texas Legislature adjourns Sine Die on Monday, May 27 at midnight (both the Senate and the House will meet every day between now and the 27th).

The TCJL and the TTLA (plaintiffs' lawyers) will meet again today in Austin to negotiate the language of an "agreed bill". This process could continue for a few more days and the outcome of the negotiations looks positive, but is not certain.

TCJL's strategy is to integrate their grassroots campaign with their lobbying and negotiating program. To this end last Friday, TCJL launched a renewed effort amongst their supporters inside & outside of Texas to persuade supporters of HB 5, the products liability bill, to communicate (or communicate again) their request to: the 31 member Senate; Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock; and Gov. Ann Richards that the political leadership in Austin adopt a substantive product liability statute.

Note: Neal Cohen of APCO is providing guidance for this TCJL grassroots program, and will happily provide you with updated letters/attachments. Phone Neal this week at the Austin Akin, Gump law firm (c/o Jack Gullahorn's office -- ph: 512/499-6234; fax: 512/476-3866).

TCJL has over 2000 member organizations in its coalition and the PM Family of Companies has proven to be one of its most active supporters.

TCJL's ambition is to enact a statute that is fair to consumers and business, and one that is good for Texas as a whole.

TCJL's message to HB 5 supporters also communicates the fact that this bill can reduce (not eliminate) legal expenses and legal exposure, and will enhance Texas' chances of persuading businesses to locate &/or expand their operations in Texas.

Note: Last night the TCJL negotiating team met in Austin and it's fair to report that they are cautiously optimistic that TJCL's "products objectives" will be met before the Legislature adjourns on May 27.

It now appears that the political leadership in Austin has reached a consensus that "there should be a products statute" and the developments of the next few days will determine whether or not this will happen in fact...and, as importantly, how substantive this statute might be! In other words, if

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HB 5 supporters don't make dumb mistakes or are not very unlucky, the TCJL coalition will win!

Thank you again for all of your continued support and assistance. By communicating, cooperating and coordinating the PM Family of Companies is fulfilling its role in this process.

Please do what you can, particularly during the early part of this week, to encourage the PM Family's friends and allies to send their supportive messages to members of the Austin Senate. Encourage polite, clear "please pass products" types of communications.

I am in 120 Park this morning and will travel to Austin this afternoon...to stay until "the fat man sings". Please beep/page me if I can be of any assistance.

Very best regards,

Bernie

cc: DTEARNO --VUS0212A Daniel Tearno	DDAVIS --DSVPMUSA DARRYL DAVIS
DLAUFER --DSVPMUSA DAVID LAUFER	BLEMOND --DSVPMUSA BETSY GILES
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