



The Legislature State of Texas

November 15, 2010

Mark Wolfe, Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

Mr. Wolfe:

We write to you today in support of a historical marker for the gravesite of Timothy Cole.

Tim was the loving son of Ruby Session, and was a caring elder brother for his six siblings while growing up in Ft. Worth. He proudly served our country in the U.S. Army, and attended Texas Tech after his service.

Unfortunately, Tim's great potential was cut short in Lubbock when he was accused of being responsible for a string of rapes at Texas Tech in 1985. While there was no physical evidence tying him to the crime and he steadfastly maintained his innocence, Tim was convicted of one of those sexual assaults and sentenced to 25 years in prison. He died of an asthma attack, while incarcerated, in 1999.

Eight years later, Tim's mother received a letter from the real rapist, confessing to the crime. DNA evidence confirmed the identity of the assailant and cleared Timothy Cole's name. Tim was exonerated and received a posthumous pardon from Governor Perry on March 1, 2010. His was the first posthumous pardon in the history of Texas, and the first DNA-related posthumous pardon in the United States.

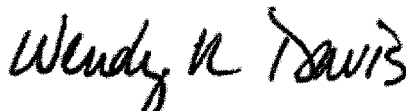
In the 2009 legislative session, both the Texas House and Senate passed resolutions honoring Tim Cole, and later passed the Tim Cole Act, increasing compensation for the wrongfully convicted. Legislation was also enacted to establish the Timothy Cole Advisory Panel on Wrongful Convictions to study the causes of, and ways to prevent, wrongful convictions.

We think it is important for the State of Texas to honor Timothy Cole's name and make a concerted effort to ensure that his tragic story is never forgotten. For all of these reasons, we strongly support the placing of a historical marker at Timothy Cole's gravesite at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth.

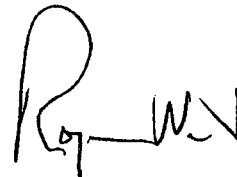
Sincerely,



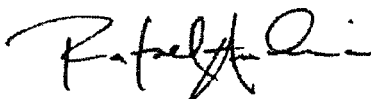
Sen. Rodney Ellis



Sen. Wendy Davis




Sen. Royce West



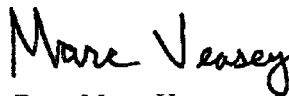
Rep. Rafael Anchia



Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon



Rep. Senfronia Thompson



Rep. Marc Veasey

Cc: Brent Morton; Susan Taylor

RE/se