

MISSION * ARANSAS NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

April 18, 2007

Coastal America
300 7th Street, SW, Suite 680
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Nuckols:

It is a pleasure for Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve to have the opportunity to nominate Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, for the "Special Recognition Award." This nomination has been over four years in the making. It was with his support and help that our way was paved at the State of Texas level in achieving the designation of the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve in May 2006. The vast majority of the 185,708 acres of land making up the reserve is held by the Texas Permanent School fund and controlled by the Texas General Land Office. With his lead position we enjoy eight other partners in Mission-Aransas NERR. They are: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Texas Department of Transportation; United States Fish and Wildlife Service; Coastal Bend Land Trust; The Nature Conservancy; Fennessey Ranch; Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries; and Aransas County Navigation District.

Commissioner Patterson's dedication to the same goals for Texas, protecting, preserving and when necessary restoring coastal resources, as adopted by Coastal America for the nation is evidenced in every action and policy his office adopts or manages. He is custodian for the three hundred sixty-seven miles of Texas coastline. He has established programs for effective coastal management and provided the personnel necessary to implement them. He supports innovative approaches to control coastal erosion and has dedicated significant state resources to this effort. As State Senator prior to being elected Land Commissioner one of his many successes was in the passage of the State of Texas Coastal Management Plan. He is a true advocate for our coast and his responsible stewardship is recognized statewide.

Please give Commissioner Patterson every consideration. He is humble by nature and is not motivated by recognition but rather by always doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do. This is often a difficult position for an elected official to take on a subject as sensitive as our coasts.

We will be happy to provide additional information at your request.

Very Sincerely,

Georgia Neblett
Executive Director,
Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Reserve



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