

# LONE STAR PROJECT

*Fighting Back... with Facts*



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## **Strayhorn Has Not Stopped Payments to All Washington DC Lobbyists** *Texas Payments to Lobbyist with Ties to Strayhorn and DeLay Continue*

Texas Comptroller Carol Strayhorn's decision to suspend payments to the Washington Lobby firm of Cassidy and Associates may, on first blush, seem like a timely and responsible act. However, upon closer examination, Strayhorn's actions appear to have stopped far short of halting improper payments to lobbyists and raise questions about her own close relationship with Washington lobbyists who have political ties to Tom DeLay.

### **Strayhorn Statement Inconsistent With Her Actions**

In her statement announcing the payment suspension, Strayhorn said, "***Texas state law clearly prohibits tax dollars being spent to lobby the state legislature and prohibits spending for influencing or supporting candidates at the state or federal level. By any measure, using tax dollars to pay a private firm to lobby the federal government or members of Congress is a wholly inappropriate and unwise use of public money.***" (Strayhorn Press Release, 3/22/06) However, Strayhorn is still allowing large lobby payments to the DC based Federalist Group to continue.

- Cassidy and Associates is **only one of** the Washington based lobby firms that were awarded lucrative contracts by Rick Perry, after he fired 10 staff members at the Texas Office of State and Federal Relations. (Source: *The Houston Chronicle*, 1/26/2006)
- \$15,000 monthly payments continue to be made to the Federalist Group, a Washington Lobby firm with direct ties to Tom DeLay.
- At least one Federalist Group associate contributed to the Strayhorn campaign in past election cycles. (Source: *Texas Ethics Commission*)
- The Federalist Group will have received \$540,000 in state funds by the end of this month, more than any other Washington lobby group. (Source: *The Houston Chronicle* 5/09/2003)

**Strayhorn Ignored Lobby Group That Donates Generously to Republicans -**

## including Strayhorn Campaign

- At least one of Maloney's Federalist Group partners, Wayne Berman, contributed \$5,000 to the Strayhorn campaign on October 19, 2002. (Source: *Texas Ethics Commission*)
- The Lone Star Project disclosed in a [report issued on November 18, 2005](#) that former Tom DeLay senior staff member Drew Maloney, who leads the Federalist Group's Texas lobby effort from Washington, has contributed over \$6,500 directly to DeLay and \$22,750 to Texas Republican Congressmen since the contract was signed. Other associates at the Federalist Group have added thousands of dollars to Texas Republican's campaign accounts. (Source: *Houston Chronicle 1/19/2006 and Federal Election Commission*)
- Drew Maloney gave no money to Texas Democrats (Source: *Federal Election Commission*)
- Maloney joined other Federalist Group members in sponsoring a Washington, DC fundraising event for DeLay on November 17, 2005. (Source: *Roll Call, 11/17/2005*)

### Drew Maloney Contributions to Texas Congressman Beginning March 2003

<b>GOP Congressmen</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Joe Barton	\$3,000
Michael Burgess	\$1,500
John Carter	\$2,000
Mike Conaway	\$500
John Culberson	\$1,500
<b>Tom DeLay</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>
Louis B Gohmert	\$250
Jeb Hensarling	\$1,000
Michael McCaul	\$500
Randy Neugebauer	\$2,750
Pete Sessions	\$3,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,750</b>

## Roundup

Rick Perry's improper state payments to Washington lobbyists have been the subject of controversy for nearly a year. Democratic State House Leader Jim Dunning attempted to halt the payments and instead use the funds to assist Texas Veterans, but was blocked by Tom Craddick and the Republican majority in the House. (Source: *The Houston Chronicle 4/07/2005*) Dunning also raised questions about the improper ties of both Drew Maloney with the Federalist

Group and Todd Boulanger with Cassidy and Associates late last year. (Source: *The Houston Chronicle*, 1/26/2006) Only now, while in the midst of a political campaign, has Carol Strayhorn raised any objection to the use of State funds for Washington, DC lobbyists.

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