

To whom it may concern:

My name is _____ . I am writing this letter in reference to the inhumane conditions of lack proper ventilation and temperature control within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Prison Facilities. I would like to express my revulsion towards the blatant violation of both the officers and prison inmates' human rights, by exposing them to dangerously hot temperatures. I believe that TDCJ is currently violating the U.S. Constitution and international human rights standards by the cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment of exposing people to temperature extremes.

Despite several deaths, a plethora of media reports, wrongful death lawsuits filed, and complaints from family members and union officials for well over 20 years, TDCJ is still refusing to take basic steps to provide humane conditions for the people in there care. Although, The Texas Commission on Jail Standards already requires every county jail in Texas to maintain internal temperatures stay between 65 and 85 degrees, other states with hot climates, such as Arkansas, Arizona, Oklahoma, and New Mexico, air condition their prisons, and even the detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is air-conditioned, TDCJ continues to allow people to suffer in heat indexes of up to and over 149 degrees as reported by the Hutchins Unit on July 19, 2011.

Granted there are some fans and ice provided, however, that is simply not enough. My grandmother always told me "you never know where someone has been until you walk a mile in their shoes". So, imagine with me that **YOU** are sitting in your hot car at over 100 degrees for several hours a day and for days on end (I dare you to try it). Now, imagine bringing a small fan into your hot car to cool yourself. The fans would simply feel like a hot blow dryer. It seems reasonable that if TDCJ has money in the budget to replace its aging swine-production facilities with 6 new climate-controlled modular barns, at a cost of \$750,000, surely they could treat people better than pigs.

In conclusion, I am hoping and praying that you will realize, as one who is sworn to protect it's citizens, that this unconscionable behaviour of allowing people to be tortured by deadly heat conditions must cease. This travesty has taken and damaged too many lives and has persisted too long. Something must be NOW! As a state, I believe that we can simply do better than this. I am asking you to do what is morally and humanely correct by bringing proper temperature control and ventilation, to both the officers and inmates within the TDCJ Prison Facilities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
