

News Release

Texans for Public Justice ** 609 W. 18th Street, Suite E, ** Austin, TX 78701

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Governor's Tort Agenda Aimed at Protecting Polluters, Frackers and Nuke Waste Profiteers.

**Texans for Lawsuit Reform and Governor Front for Harold Simmons,
Oil & Gas Tycoons and Industries that Pollute and Harm Texans**

Austin, TX: Statement of Craig McDonald, Texans for Public Justice Director in response to Perry/TLR March 14 media event.

“The governor’s so-called ‘loser pays’ agenda makes for good political rhetoric but is dangerous. Adopting a ‘victim pays’ policy locks Texans with legitimate claims out of the justice system. This is not about frivolous lawsuits. Texas already imposes strict sanctions on frivolous claims.

“Texans for Lawsuit Reform (TLR) would deter justice. This scheme prevents those who assault Texans from facing a judge and jury. This polluter-friendly smokescreen erects walls around our court houses. Future victims of disasters caused by negligent frackers, nuclear waste dumpers or air polluters will never get a day in court. Victims of criminal or reckless acts should never have to pay to get courtroom justice. Perry is promoting policies that turn our 250-year-old justice system on its head.

“If Governor Perry really believes the loser-pays doctrine, it’s time for him to pay up. Over the past year he and other Texas politicians have litigated against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to no avail. Perry’s lawsuits have been rejected by the courts four times. Is Perry going to pay for his frivolous litigation on behalf of Texas polluters?”

“You don’t need to be a physicist to see that Perry’s alternate universe is rapidly expanding.”

TLR’s largest single donor in 2010 was Harold “Dirty Harry” Simmons who owns a nuclear dump in West Texas. Simmons, who has given \$1.1 million to Governor Perry, gave TLR’s PAC \$825,000 in the 2010 election cycle. Tycoons from the oil, gas and energy sectors contributed \$1.5 million more. See [Nuclear Waste Kingpin Helps TLR Raise \\$6.9 Million](#). Simmons is pushing hard to import nuclear waste from across the nation and the world. When will this ambulance chaser make a play for Japan’s Fukushima waste?

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Texans for Public Justice is a non-profit, non-partisan research and advocacy organization that tracks the role of money in Texas politics.