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Office of the Secretary
Docketing & Service

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"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

Dear Chairman Bechhoefer,

It has come to my attention that the ASLB might schedule one week of the STNP licensing hearings to be held in Austin. I am glad to see this, because as a 16% partner, I believe Austin should be the seat of some portion of the hearings. However, as happened in San Antonio with the TV cameras, it appears that you have once again failed to recognize the existence of the First Amendment.

I do not know why it is that you do not wish to allow public testimony from the Austinites. You have allowed all other cities the opportunity to present public testimony, and Austin, also a partner in the STNP deserves this opportunity.

Austin is a college town, and most of its residents are highly principled. They will not take kindly to the notion that you wish to deny them their freedom of speech. I don't know what you are afraid of--is it mothers with babies in their arms?-----is it long-haired people?---or hippies?---or radicals?---or students?---exactly what is it that you do not wish to hear? Maybe you don't like people who sing their testimony?

I believe that these people will cause more trouble if they are NOT allowed to testify, and suggest that you just "grin" and bear it." Otherwise you will probably end up facing anything from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to civil disobedience.

"A Friend of the Court"

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