



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 14, 2006

A Message from the Governor:

WHEREAS, the world renowned Original International Championship Chili Cook-off held in Terlingua, Texas is an annual event promoting the finest chefs and chili recipes known to the world, to man, woman, child and beast;

WHEREAS, chili is a Texas tradition and a beloved state dish, near and dear to our international identity and essential to our state pride;

WHEREAS, after reviewing the facts surrounding the case, I have determined that the evidence is convincing — Mr. Donald Eastep did indeed combine several well-known Terlingua chili cook-off dishes to create the winning recipe at the 2003 Terlingua chili cook-off, a feat that, in its shocking boldness, still inspires great and intense reactions to this day;

WHEREAS, once his daring deed was uncovered, his title was removed and he returned home with no prize and the curse of many chili chefs on his head;

WHEREAS, relying on my personal knowledge of the stressful and demanding world of competitive chili cooking, and my belief that all Texans deserve to know if Mr. Eastep can indeed create his own winning chili recipe, I have decided to formally intervene in this most urgent matter; and

WHEREAS, in Texas, we believe bigger is better, including gestures of forgiveness for the contrite.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the great State of Texas, do hereby grant an official, but temporary gubernatorial pardon during his stay within the Texas' borders to:

Donald Eastep

Sincerely,

Rick Perry

*Rick Perry
Governor*

