



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 1-23-06

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## COMBS ENDORSES CASTEEL RE-ELECTION

NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS –Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs formally endorsed State Representative Carter Casteel (R-New Braunfels) for re-election to the Texas House today. “Carter has worked hard for the farmers and ranchers of the Hill Country,” Combs said. “She is an effective leader and I am pleased to support her for re-election.”

In 1998, Susan Combs became the first woman elected Texas Commissioner of Agriculture. She previously served in the Texas House of Representatives. Combs will be the Republican candidate for Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts in the November general election.

“I am thankful for Commissioner Comb’s friendship and support,” Casteel said. “Susan and I have worked together to promote Texas agriculture and protect landowners. She has championed rural economic development, which greatly benefits agribusiness and tourism in the Hill Country.”

Combs applauded Casteel’s support for farmer and ranchers. “She has sponsored and supported legislation to ensure their way of life by preserving property rights and protecting them from annexation,” Combs added. “Last year, the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association recognized her as the ‘Person of the Year in Texas Agriculture.’”

Casteel is seeking a third term as the state representative for Bandera, Comal, Gillespie and Kendall Counties. An attorney and former public school teacher, Casteel was first elected to the Texas House in November 2002. A New Braunfels resident since 1973, she previously served eight years as Comal County Judge (1990-98) and six years on the Comal Independent School District Board of Trustees (1984-90).

The statewide primary election is March 7, 2006.

- 30 -