



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

January 6, 2020

By Electronic Filing and Overnight Delivery

Scott Harris, Clerk of the Court
Supreme Court of the United States
Office of the Clerk
1 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20543

Re: *Tony Ford v. State of Texas*, No. 19-6927

Dear Mr. Harris,

A response in this death penalty case is due January 13, 2020. Respondent respectfully requests a thirty-day extension of the present deadline, up to and including February 12, 2020. This is Respondent's first request for an extension in this case. The extension request is not sought for an improper purpose, including harassment or unnecessary delay. Rather, the undersigned requires additional time due to the demands of supervising multiple attorneys with capital caseloads and the undersigned's own work in such cases, including last-minute litigation pertaining to the scheduled execution of Abel Ochoa on February 6, 2020. Moreover, the undersigned was out-of-town during the recent holidays for a previously-scheduled vacation, during which time he was unable to work on the instant case. The undersigned conferred with Petitioner's counsel, Richard Burr, who stated that he was not opposed to this requested extension. A copy of this letter will be sent to Mr. Burr. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hoffman", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Hoffman
Assistant Attorney General

CC: Richard H. Burr
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