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Dear Family and Friends:

As Kegconnection celebrates it's 10 anniversary and I grow even older still, I find myself reflecting on the things that are important to me. I value the friendships and relationships I have developed in this industry over the last ten years. I especially appreciate that my employees and customers have allowed me grow this company and hold one of the bests jobs one can imagine. I could not have done any of this without my families' support. They have stood by me, nurtured me and supported me at all times.

As a boy I was blessed to have a wonderful family ranch in Texas to visit. A visit to the ranch also meant seeing my grandparents, whom I adored. We call this ranch the "Colonel Burns Ranch" and it is a family treasure. One of my fondest memories is seeing the Texas Horned Lizard as a boy, although we called them "Horny Toads" back then. I remember thinking when I saw one, that those people that thought dinosaurs were extinct were wrong! As a child, these reptiles looked more like a dinosaur than any of the drawings of actual dinosaurs I saw in books. When you picked one up it would bleed from it's eyes as a defense. What young boy would not be astonished by this feat? They were gentle and beautiful in their ruggedness. Little did I know then, that they were also fragile. I remember seeing them every time I visited the ranch until one day they had vanished. The last sighting (until recently) was by my son Kyle when he was around 9 years old. He is now 25. My girls had never seen one, even after we moved to the ranch 4 years ago.

My family decided about 20 years ago to end the ranch's duty as a cow/calf operation and focus on bringing it back to it's former natural grandeur. We have nurtured the wildlife, replanted native species of prairie grasses and embarked on many other conservation efforts. Where there were once rocks, dry baked soil and cactus there now stands beautiful native grasses and other native fauna. It is proud legacy that I thank my Father, Uncle and Aunt for beginning. Our native deer, turkey and other animals have returned and populations have thrived.....except for our "Horny Toads",now that is changing.

Next to our ranch, on land formally settled by our ancestors, is a Texas Parks and Wildlife Management area. They have been doing a great deal of research on the Texas Horned Lizard and we have worked with them on this project, including their biologist Devin, who has so tirelessly fought for these majestic reptiles. They reintroduced the lizards a couple of years ago and attached transponders to the ones they released. They have had success with this project including surviving offspring. I was thrilled earlier this year to have spotted and photographed the first Texas Horned Lizards on the ranch in over 16 years! My father, who is in his 80's (and can still work me into submission on the ranch) was thrilled to be able to see a "Horny Toad" again with his own eyes.

Our work to save the Texas Horned Lizard is far from done. Kegconnection decided to commission a special edition of the STARR (made since 1925) bottle opener commemorating the Texas Horned Lizard. We are paying for the cost of manufacturing these bottle openers and donating every cent collected when we sell one of the openers. We hope to raise a substantial amount of money for this important cause. If you are reading this letter because you ordered a bottle opener, THANK YOU!. If you are considering ordering one, I sincerely hope that you will. Your support is appreciated by me and my little friends.

Sincerely,

Todd Winn Burns