

Trey and Jennifer Skiles  
C/O Robertson County Veterinary Services  
3206 State Hwy 6 South  
Hearne, Texas 77859

June 12, 2024

By email

Kean Register  
City Manager, City of Bryan  
P.O. Box 1000  
Bryan, TX 77805

Re: Clifford A. Skiles III's (BVTP-003) and Others' Pending Transport Permit Applications

Dear Mr. Register:

My family and I have farmed in the Brazos Valley for over 25 years. My wife, Jennifer, and I have four children between the ages of 12 and 23 who have grown up helping on our family farm and working alongside us at our veterinary practice, which provides mixed animal veterinary services throughout the county. Jennifer and I have supported the community through her field trips with elementary students, supporting various animal rescues, and by helping the surrounding county youth fairs and agriculture programs. Our involvement with the community, as well as our experiences farming our land, has instilled in us the value of agriculture and resource management. We also understand the value of our private property rights, including the groundwater rights that Texas courts and legislatures have protected for over a century. With knowledge of these rights and after careful thought, we decided to participate in a regional water supply project with UW Brazos, which demonstrated a very clear need for this water in the receiving area, as well as protective measures that balance the project with local needs.

We worked with an experienced consulting firm and devoted our own time and energy to secure groundwater production permits from the Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District. We were able to do that (like the City of Bryan did) in the fall of 2023, just before the District, which is led by the City of Bryan Water Utilities Director, significantly changed the rules for all landowners going forward. The City of Bryan secured its own additional groundwater production permits around the same time as we received ours. My family and I then applied to the District to transport from our land that *already authorized production*, which will contribute to a project that will meet a resounding and well-documented regional demand for water. The project is being implemented by experienced project developers. In the context of the pending transport applications, the project has committed to a thoughtful set of voluntary comprises as requested by the District, such as an overall transport cap.

The District issued our operating permits through a rigorous and transparent process, including a comprehensive evaluation of the effects of the groundwater production. The District thoroughly analyzed what we were asking for, and they concluded that the permitted

production complies with all District rules and the law in Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code. As a result, my family and I have substantial investment-backed expectations for our ability to produce and transport groundwater from my property. We are proud that our property—our groundwater—will help serve the needs of the broader region and support our continued productive use of this land.

The City of Bryan did not object to our production permits, nor has the City ever reached out to me or my family about our water resources or our transport application. We hope and expect this means that the City intends to, at least, not object to our pending transport permit applications or those of the other landowners who have chosen to dedicate our groundwater to this important project. I understand that the law says we must be treated fairly and impartially and not discriminated against by the District because we seek transport authorizations for our groundwater. The intense and growing demand for water in the receiving area is clearly documented in State and Regional Water Plans as well as in other studies and the press. The City filing a hearing request on transport applications when production has been fully analyzed and authorized *without the City's objection*, or requesting additional study, at this point, would smack of discriminatory protectionism. The City surely understands that a hearing process would simply waste the resources of the District, the City, and the applicants.

As a significant groundwater pumper in the District and a strong influence both within the District and in the community, the City of Bryan plays a unique role and, we believe, has a responsibility to respect my and my family's private ownership of the groundwater under our land. We have been a part of Robertson County for many years and continue to invest here. My family has a vested interest in supporting the community. We ask that the City do its best to leave a clear path for the District to move forward with the impartial and non-discriminatory issuance of transport authorizations for our already-authorized groundwater production.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clifford A. Skiles III".

Clifford A. Skiles III

cc: Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District  
David Lynch, UWBVF