

Chairman Guerra, members and Mayor Nirenberg, my name is Linda Curtis of Independent Texans. I came down today from Bastrop to convey a message from source communities and to report to you an incident that took place last Tuesday at the Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District.

First, I have been asked to publicly thank you, Mayor Nirenberg, for taking the time to meet with landowners in Burleson County in January 2016. You were a city councilman at that time who was searching for a way to help. It wasn't you these landowners were rejecting, Mayor. It was years of being sold a bill of goods by Metropolitan Water's Scott Carlson who famously pled no contest to stealing \$2.4 million from his oil and gas employer some 15 years ago just before he went into the water leasing business. The water leases Carlson gathered are the girding for Vista Ridge – leases that would never be allowed by oil and gas law. To this very day, landowners who were fooled by Carlson want out of these leases but cannot...yet...do so.

It was not lost on them when the supposedly 3400 leases for Vista Ridge turned out to be only about 750. How many actual people this represents, we cannot say. But does anyone really

trust SAWS to tell the truth? We know that our friends in San Antonio are embarrassed and want a way out of this mess as much as we do.

Last week, an attorney for Vista Ridge came with a demand that Post Oak GCD violate their own rules by granting a 10-year extension of the transfer permit without proper notice and a public hearing. What's more, he insisted that Post Oak ignore letters sent to the District by three state representatives – Cyrier, Schubert and Wilson -- and by State Senator Kolkhorst, as well as in-person testimony from Lee County Judge Paul Fischer. These officials all cited Gov. Greg Abbott's veto of a bill that would have allowed for automatic renewals of transfer permits, pointing out the need for public participation and transparency.

Vista Ridge's attorney scoffed at these officials, including the Governor with a retort that, "this is all political". We might all in our heart of hearts agree – SAWS has made this a political deal, the political bill for which both the Simsboro and San Antonio ratepayers will have to pay for the disaster known as Vista Ridge.

With that, I wanted to extend a hand to Mayor Nirenberg to please meet with landowners and Lee County Judge Paul Fischer at your convenience in your office to discuss how we might be good neighbors and work together.