



Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs

Senator Charles Perry, *Chairman*

Members: Senator José Rodríguez, Vice-Chair; Senator Brandon Creighton; Senator Bob Hall;
Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa; Senator Lois Kolkhorst; Senator Borris Miles

February 15, 2018

Commissioner Bryan Shaw
Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Chairman Shaw,

It has come to our attention that the Irrigator Advisory Council (IAC) has recommended a rulemaking provision to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to repeal the authorization of certain backflow prevention devices for irrigation systems in Texas. We write you this letter in opposition to this proposal.

Many homes across the state use a "double check valve" on their irrigation system as their authorized method of backflow prevention. Per the petition of the IAC, they have requested that TCEQ repeal this authorization and instead require a system with "spill resistant vacuum breakers." It is our understanding that this proposal is not a response to a particular incident; rather, it is simply a recommendation to mirror the regulatory structure imposed in other states.

Furthermore, retrofitting irrigation systems may cost individual homeowners hundreds to thousands of dollars depending on their current infrastructure and accessibility. The last thing our rural communities need is the addition of a burdensome and costly new regulation that seeks to "fix" a problem that does not exist.

For many sessions, the Texas Legislature has consistently sought ways to reduce regulatory burdens on private citizens and will continue to do so for many years to come. To accept the IAC's suggestion and proceed with a rulemaking would be in direct conflict with the ongoing efforts of both the House and the Senate, therefore we request that you abandon their petition at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Perry".

Senator Charles Perry

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Frullo".

Representative John Frullo

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kel Seliger".

Senator Kel Seliger

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew Springer".

Representative Drew Springer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dustin Burrows".

Representative Dustin Burrows

