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**Sen. Campbell and Rep. Isaac File Bills to Protect Trinity Groundwater**

AUSTIN, TX - State Senator Donna Campbell (R-New Braunfels) and State Representative Jason Isaac (R-Dripping Springs) filed legislation today to expand the boundaries of two groundwater conservation districts in Hays County in an effort to protect an unregulated zone of the Trinity Aquifer.

“For generations, Texans have been faced with the challenge of building vibrant communities while protecting our natural resources,” said State Sen. Donna Campbell. “By working together with leaders of Hays County to protect groundwater in the Trinity Aquifer, I am confident that the legislation we are introducing will preserve the natural beauty of the Texas Hill Country, strengthen private property rights, and meet the demands of rapid population growth through responsible development in Central Texas.”

The two lawmakers also introduced a bill that removes the expansive powers of eminent domain outside of the boundaries and service area of the Goforth Special Utility District.

“This isn’t just a water issue, it’s also about property rights,” Rep. Jason Isaac stated after hosting a press conference with Hays County officials on Thursday. “I remain more than hopeful that the legislation we filed today will help bring a solution to protect not only the Trinity Aquifer, but also well owners who are worried about their wells running dry and property owners who could lose their land from wrongful use of eminent domain.”

HB 3405/SB 1439, and HB 3406/SB 1440, will bring under protection an area of the Trinity Aquifer, which currently remains unprotected and just outside the boundary of a priority groundwater management area, by expanding either the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District or the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District.

HB 3407 will prevent Goforth from acquiring the pipeline easements by condemning land from property owners along FM 3237 and FM 150 and anywhere else that is not within the boundaries of their district. The Senate companion bill was still being finalized Thursday afternoon, but is expected to be filed Friday.

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