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Every Friday, this newsletter will keep you up to speed on some of the legislation important to Texas Farm Bureau members that the Austin staff is following.

Please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate staff with any questions.

2019 TFB Leadership Conference: Jan. 28-29

We need YOU in Austin! Please attend the 2019 TFB Leadership Conference in Austin on January 28-29.

We will be visiting the Capitol on the afternoon of Tuesday, Jan. 29, to ask legislators to support eminent domain reform. As we stated in last week's *Austin Newsletter*, the private entities that oppose eminent domain reform are politically powerful opponents. But that influence can be overcome, if the PEOPLE in these legislators' districts strongly support eminent domain reform.

It is even more critical for our success this session to have an army of county Farm Bureau leaders at the Capitol this year. Our opponents also have scheduled their own 'Day at the Capitol' to tell their story. We must show the Legislature that we are a true grassroots organization. We need you in the Capitol on that Tuesday afternoon.

Please be sure you are making your appointments with your legislators! We have these meetings on the agenda from 3-5 p.m.

Brackish Groundwater

[HB 722](#) by Rep. Lyle Larson sets out the criteria that should apply to permits to produce this brackish groundwater for the purpose of desalinating the water to drinking

water standards. These rules are initiated at the local level by a petition filed by a landowner or someone with groundwater rights. Groundwater Conservation Districts are not required to adopt the rules under HB 722 unless they receive this petition. These rules require permits to produce brackish groundwater for desalination in these zones to:

- Allow withdrawal rates based upon the TWDB study;
- Have a 30 year term; and
- Require monitoring of the aquifer to ensure no negative impacts on water quality.

HB 722 DOES NOT require a district to issue a permit in these zones. These permits will be considered under the same process as all other permits to produce groundwater in a district. HB 722 adds additional requirements on these particular permits that don't apply to other permits. HB 722 specifically states that any permit issues must be consistent with landowner's ownership and rights in groundwater.

TFB SUPPORTS HB 722. (TFB Policy: Groundwater 153 Lines 61-63, 207-208, 220-221).

HB 724 by Rep. Lyle Larson facilitates the use of treated brackish groundwater. The bill allows treated brackish groundwater that is discharged into a water course to be diverted and used again. The reuse of this water will offset the cost of desalination. The bill also facilitates the interbasin transfer of treated brackish groundwater. This will help treated brackish groundwater to alleviate the pressure on surface water supplies in the basin of origin.

TFB SUPPORTS HB 724. (TFB Policy: Water Management 155 Lines 37-40, 43-45).

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If you would like immediate updates on the action in Austin, follow the Austin Legislative Staff on Twitter.

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