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To the Region C Water Planning Group:

As the one and only public-private regional organization committed to enhancing the overall economic vitality and quality of life of North Texas, the North Texas Commission is keenly interested in long-term natural resource and infrastructure issues affecting our region.

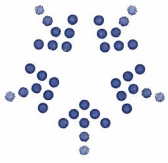
Developing a plentiful long-term water supply, and maintaining an adequate reserve to guard against unforeseen droughts or other future challenges, is one of the most pressing issues deserving of our attention. Simply put, having a safe and adequate supply of water is absolutely vital in order to keep North Texas strong.

As we look towards the future and see North Texas' tremendous growth projected to continue over the coming decades, we know how important it is to plan now for our region's future water needs. This is true especially in light of the long lead time required for planning and implementation of most major water management strategies.

The Dallas-Fort Worth has the highest numerical population growth annually of any U.S. region. This is a plus in many regards, as it means we are attracting talented workers and many of the world's leading businesses to North Texas. With this growth, however, come formidable challenges – including not only strains on the long-term water supply, but also challenges related to transportation and air quality.

The draft 2011 Region C Water Plan recently developed by the Region C Water Planning Group is a powerful, strategic roadmap for addressing the water supply issue over the next 50 years.

The North Texas Commission is very pleased by the balanced mix of water management strategies recommended in the draft plan – including a significant focus on water conservation, some of the nation's most innovative and ambitious water reuse strategies, greater reliance on existing water supply sources and selective development of new reservoirs. This balanced approach ensures both that our future water supply will be sufficient to meet our growing needs, and that this valuable natural resource will be wisely allocated.



Each of these supply source types is important, and we urge the Planning Group – as well as the Texas Legislature – to do everything within their power to preserve the ability of the region to implement this balanced approach to water supply management. We simply cannot afford to take any category of water supply sources off the table, as our projected growth requires that we keep every tool in our water planning toolbox.

We also commend the Region C Water Planning Group for conducting special studies during the current planning period on emerging issues such as water conservation and reuse, regional coordination on the Toledo Bend project, and rapidly changing conditions in certain localized areas within the North Texas region. Those special emphases have resulted in a plan that is smartly crafted and deserving of adoption.

For all of the reasons cited above, the North Texas Commission strongly supports the draft 2011 Region C Water Plan, and we urge the Planning Group to adopt it formally later this year.

Sincerely,

Dan S. Petty  
CEO and President  
North Texas Commission