

To the Honorable Board Members of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and
Mr. J.D. Strong, Executive Director
3800 North Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

February 22, 2012

Dear Sirs and Madams,

As a landowner within the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer I attended the February 13, 2012 board meeting for the sole purpose of the boards finding of what the maximum annual yield (MAY) of the aquifer would be. Of course as a landowner any amount less than the current 24"/acre per year would not suit me, as any less is a taking of private property and as of yet there has been no discussion of compensation for the taking of this private property.

I was impressed by board members Marilyn Feaver and Tom Buchanan for having such a level head and common sense and asking valid questions about this and needing more time and research. After seeing the board pretty much "rubber stamp" items on the agenda prior to the MAY issue with a YEA, I was worried about the vote on the Arbuckle-Simpson.

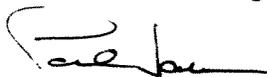
If water rights can be taken away in one area of Oklahoma it can be taken away in another and that is a big problem and scary. The Chickasaw Nation is behind the Arbuckle-Simpson controversy as they have funded the Citizens for the Protection of the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer (CPASA) for nine years. This is not right as they are trying to obtain all water rights in this region and over the rest of Southeastern Oklahoma. The water rights belong to the landowners (in my case my Grandad bought this land in 1934 because of the abundance of water) and it should remain at 24"/acre. The Chickasaws are just going through the backdoor instead of the front door in trying to get these water rights.

The Arbuckle-Simpson area is huge and the population relatively small compared to the rest of Oklahoma (with the exception of NW OK). We do not have a deficiency of water in this area, we have a problem with a few folks that think the "sky is falling" and caught the bug. There is more than enough water in this region and taking away private property from landowners is not the right or fair thing to do. I am really surprised that the landowners rights were not discussed in your meeting and only municipalities future water supplies were discussed (and the fish). This seems to me as a landowner that you have already decided to the taking of our rights and now deciding how to implement the taking and distribution. This is going to be one huge nightmare. How will the water be measured?

I know there was a \$5 million study done on the area, but study's are what they are (kind of like polls) and they can be bent or practiced to sway for a beneficial outcome. I know the Chickasaws paid for much of this study, so that might say something. This study was based on fish. Yes, fish. Why not use the people that live in the area and consumption by living human beings. I guess the fish will outlive us and are more important. The Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer will supply enough water at the current rate of 24"/ac for the very long run and most likely forever and ever.

Please Mr. Strong and all Board Members give this matter complete and serious thought before you vote as it could impact the rest of the state water rights in the future, especially this area. A wrong decision would mean higher water bills for every citizen in the area as all municipalities within the boundary will have to acquire additional water rights. Not just additional, but 10 times what they currently have. That is outrageous. In these economic times or even if times were great it is not right that this is even being considered. Leaving things as is would be the common sense approach and decision.

Thanks for entertaining the letter and best regards,



Paul Warren