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Gentlemen:

For over 15 years, as director of a nonprofit, Texas Education Approved environmental education site, students from throughout the state have come to study the issues mandated in 1991 as core environmental issues ---which includes water.

May I stress two things: 1) These youngsters are from Talented and Gifted Programs, from Advanced Placement Environmental Science, from Academic Decathlon groups, and places such as the NASA area where the parents and the teachers are wanting to prepare the children for their futures--whether here or in space. 2) The studies are open-ended to their research, interviews, experiments, field trips and not focusing on a predetermined point of view.

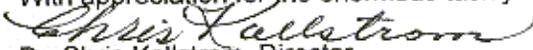
On a recent discussion of the water matter, they came up with an analogy regarding the shortage of gasoline. WHY NOT BUILD A 100,000 GASOLINE STATIONS? to alleviate that shortage----and is that not what is being proposed for the predicted water shortage---KEEP BUILDING MORE AND MORE DAMS.

They made the point that to solve gasoline shortages, we know now that the users must learn to conserve, new types of vehicles must be designed, new life styles ---sharing rides, etc., will be necessary. And from that perspective, they urge that your water plan shift from buying more land to build more dams to a really intelligent, enforced consumer education approach which will require new kinds of plumbing in their homes and businesses; new kinds of landscaping for homes and city centers; and more investment in desalination and similar processes.

Additionally, they urge that nature preserve areas, such as along the Neches, be preserved, both for their irreplaceable value to the well-being of persons but to provide for the wildlife---including the return of the black bears to Texas where they will depend on wild life corridors along rivers for their food and denning needs.

I wish you might hear the kids speak for themselves....

With appreciation for the enormous task your people have undertaken,,


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