



# SUPPORT HB 49

Provides essential reforms that will advance the beneficial use of produced water, which is a resource that can help bridge the state's growing water gap.

## WHY IS HB 49 NECESSARY?

HB 49 builds on legislation passed in 2013 that extends liability protection to entities that participate in the recycling and beneficial use of produced water. This statutory clarity should reduce environmental impact, encourage resource management, foster technological advancement, and promote the development of infrastructure to convert produced water into beneficial uses.



## CHALLENGE

Today, there is no practical purpose for produced water in Texas outside of the oilfield. Instead, oil and gas operators either dispose of the produced water waste into subsurface disposal wells or pay a water management company to handle and dispose of the produced water.



## OPPORTUNITY

HB 49 can enable technological advancements to use produced water in a beneficial way.

**Daily Production:** The Texas oil and gas industry produces 25 million barrels of produced water from oil and gas production statewide every day.

**Potential Resource:** If cleaned up to usable quality, that waste would provide a new source of water to help meet Texas's daily domestic water needs of approximately 2.3 billion gallons.



## SOLUTION

HB 49 provides necessary liability protection to enable companies to invest in the infrastructure and processes to put produced water to beneficial use. Without a change in statute, many companies that are following all regulatory procedures could become victims of unmerited lawsuit abuse.

*HB 49 does not shield a producer or any other party from liability for damages to a surface owner for negligently spilling or releasing fluid oil and gas waste on the owner's property.*

All Texans can benefit from a sound regulatory structure and liability protections that encourage the treatment of produced water for beneficial use.

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Legislative Advertising by Texas Civil Justice League 400 W 15th Street, Suite 1400 Austin, TX 78701