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March 25, 2017

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CREIGHTON TO CHANGE LONE STAR GCD TO ELECTED

Highlights: 7 Member Board with Largest Users Represented

Austin – This week, Senator Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) filed legislation addressing the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District (LSGCD) board of directors.

"After months of listening to constituent and stakeholder feedback, I am pleased to have filed a bill in line with democracy," said Senator Creighton. "It is important that Montgomery County citizens have the ability to elect these board members who oversee our most precious resource."

Senate Bill 2250, joint authored by Senator Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville), changes the makeup of LSGCD from appointed to elected board of directors. In addition, the board would alter from nine to seven members. The bill would also introduce term limits where a member could not serve for more than three 4-year terms. These seven board members are made up of:

- One elected to represent Montgomery County Commissioner Precinct 1
- One elected to represent Montgomery County Commissioner Precinct 2
- One elected to represent Montgomery County Commissioner Precinct 3
- One elected to represent Montgomery County Commissioner Precinct 4
- One elected to represent Montgomery County at-large
- One elected to represent the City of Conroe
- One elected to represent the Woodlands Township

In Texas, there are 99 groundwater conservation districts. Eighty-five percent of single-county groundwater conservation districts, like Montgomery County, elect their board members.

With Senate Bill 2250, the mission and purpose of LSGCD will remain the same. In addition, there is a plan laid out for a smooth transition from appointed to elected board members. The November 2018 election would begin the terms for all seven directors, with staggered terms so that half are on the same election cycle at one time.

"Water is our most valuable natural resource and it is extremely important that it is managed properly," said Senator Creighton. "This legislation protects water in our county and gives all citizens a voice on the

LSGCD board."

The next step for the bill is referral to a Senate Committee. Once in committee, the bill will have a hearing.

"I encourage all local elected officials and interested parties to come to the Capitol and testify once the bill has been set," concluded Senator Creighton. "It is an important discussion and a priority of mine to ensure water will be conserved and managed in the best way possible in Montgomery County."

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Senator Brandon Creighton represents Senate District 4, which encompasses Chambers, Jefferson and parts of Montgomery, Harris and Galveston Counties.