



## Support the Establishment of the Texas Land and Water Conservation Fund

HB 3165 (Rep. Holland) / SB 2485 (Sen. Kolkhorst) and HJR 138 (Rep. Holland)

### The Problem:

Texas is home to 7 of the top 15 most rapidly growing cities in the country and currently leads the nation in the loss of rural working lands to development, losing over 240,000 acres a year. Research also shows that 78% of Texas counties will not have sufficient parks in the coming decades. Texas needs additional parks, open spaces, and natural habitats to preserve our quality of life, provide food and fiber, clean water, and to support the multi-billion-dollar agricultural and outdoor recreation economy.

### The Solution:

Support the Texas Land and Water Conservation Fund (TLWCF), which would provide a significant, long-term state funding source for enhanced conservation efforts across the Lone Star State. The TLWCF would provide grants for projects that support, enhance, and protect state and local parks and recreation areas, working agricultural lands and water resources, wildlife habitat areas, and more. Over 50 of the state's leading land and water conservation, agricultural, wildlife, and sportsman's organizations are working together to protect Texas for the next generation.

HB 3165/SB 2485 would establish and create a governing board for the TLWCF led by the General Land Office that includes the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and Texas Water Development Board. The bill provides base eligibility guidelines for projects and splits funding for the conservation of agricultural lands, water resources, and wildlife habitat, as well as state and local parks, wildlife management areas, and other public access conservation projects.

HJR 138 would allow voters to protect and preserve the Texas landscape for future generations by dedicating funds from the Economic Stabilization Fund to create the TLWCF. **Recent polling shows that 83% of Texans would support the dedication of state revenue to establishing a state conservation fund.** With excess dollars in the Economic Stabilization Fund, Texas Legislators have a once in a generation opportunity to act now to constitutionally dedicate \$2 billion to the TLWCF. The TLWCF can be dedicated as either a trust fund or an endowment, thus funding meaningful land and water conservation into the state's future.

# TEXAS

LAND AND WATER  
CONSERVATION COALITION

