

Dear Members of the Legislature: I am a Texan, a hunter, a voter, and the owner and founder of the popular Austin restaurant, Dai Due. We have signature menu items that feature feral-hog meat. I strongly oppose the plan of Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller to use rat poison (warfarin) on feral hogs in Texas. Commissioner Miller's irresponsible public statements have already hurt my business and raised doubts among customers and potential customers about the safety of feral-hog meat. Please stop the plan to use warfarin on feral hogs! It will be a disaster for my business and for many other Texas businesses—and the plan makes no sense.

We created the restaurant Dai Due in 2006. A centerpiece of our operations is to use and serve ingredients that are local in our region. That way we can serve fresher foods, and we can support farmers and ranchers who are striving to improve the quality of our food. We also have a butcher shop at our same location at 2406 Manor Road, Austin, Texas. Additionally, we operate The New School of Traditional Cookery. The New School educates Texans about our wild resources, specifically wild animals and fish. Through The New School we provide courses that include butchery and hunting of wild animals, with a major focus on feral hogs. You can see more about our businesses on our website: <http://www.daidue.com>

In short, our businesses provide responsible, sustainable and delicious food and help Texans use our wild resources responsibly, including to contribute importantly to feral-hog control. These businesses are my livelihood. I've worked very hard to make them successful, including to develop and serve signature, delicious feral-hog dishes. More importantly, we educate landowners and clients on how to not only kill more feral hogs, but how to effectively utilize this sustainable, zero-input resource.

I have read and studied quite a bit about the proposed poison program. The label on the warfarin product (Kaput®) has many statements that will frighten and deter Texas hunters and consumers from hunting or consuming feral-hog meat. The very best, established, and safe methods of feral-hog control are hunting and trapping. We should expand and target those methods—not deter and reduce them.

For example, consider these quoted statements on the Kaput® product label—statements that must be true under penalty of federal law:

- **“Hazards to Humans and Domestic Animals – CAUTION: Harmful or fatal if swallowed. Keep away from humans, domestic animals and pets”**
- *My comment:* To state the obvious, if Texas allows use of this product, no hunter or consumer will want to kill or eat a feral hog! According to the label, death of the feral hog can take 4 to 7 days. (Other sources say 9 days.) I hunt feral hogs. They can travel miles a day. That means that any hunter would be at risk of killing a poisoned feral hog. Any rancher, even one strongly opposed to using poison, could end up with a poisoned feral-hog carcass on their land. No

one (other than the manufacturer and Sid Miller) wants that. But that's exactly what will happen. It will be a disaster for Texas hunters, hunting businesses, restaurants, and many related segments of our economy. This is crazy!

- “Any person who retrieves [poisoned] carcasses . . . must wear protective gloves.”
 - *My comment:* That means that any Texas hunter who shoots a feral hog or finds a dead feral hog will have to wear gloves before touching it—because we can't know if they're poisoned. Again, that's crazy!
- “**ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS** This product may be toxic to fish, birds and other wildlife. Dogs and other predatory and scavenging mammals and birds might be poisoned if they feed upon animals that have eaten the bait.”
 - *My comment:* So the poison is a threat even to our dogs—ranch dogs and hunting dogs—and “scavenging mammals and birds.” Vultures feed on dead hog carcasses—but so do caracaras and even bald eagles! In fact, *we purposely dispose of feral hog carcasses in a specific area at our partner ranch for bald eagles to consume.* So do some rare and endangered species (like the ocelots of South Texas and the bears in Southwest Texas). This product is a threat to a vast array of Texas wildlife.
- “**USE RESTRICTIONS:** . . . This bait may only be applied in hog feeders equipped with heavy lids (8 to 10 lbs. of total weight) on bait compartments so as to limit direct access to bait by nontarget animals.”
 - *My comment:* That's totally inadequate! Even city dwellers know that raccoons can lift far more than 8 to 10 pounds. So can cattle, goats, deer, mountain lions, the bears of Southwestern Texas, etc. And when the raccoon opens that bait compartment and leaves it jammed open, or throws food on the ground—as raccoons love to do—then squirrels (who love to steal food from deer feeders) will come, as will other animals.
- “Apply bait in fenced areas, if available.”
 - *My comment:* “Fenced areas, if available”??? That's totally inadequate. Zero protection. Poisoned hogs take days to die, they can travel several miles in a single day. No regular ranch fence can hold them. Only a high-grade, expensive hog-proof fence can hold them—and almost no Texas ranches have that type of fence. So the hog gets poisoned, and more often than not will end up as a dead hog carcass on some other ranch.
- “This product contains a chemical known to the state of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm.”

- *My comment:* Many Texas women take courses at our New School on Traditional Cookery. Many Texas women hunt. How many will dare hog hunt if this program is put in place? Almost none.

In short, Sid Miller's plan is a terrible idea. Please pass legislation to stop this program now!

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Griffiths', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jesse Griffiths