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Dear Representative/Senator,

I am from a family with deep and proud Texas and Texas Department of Agriculture roots. Our ancestors fought in our Texas War For Independence and my family has owned and personally operated our Lee County, Texas cow- calf ranch for well over a hundred years. My father, Bill Pieratt, served as a representative in the Texas legislature, as Deputy Commissioner of TDA and he accepted a presidential appointment to head the Texas office of USDA's Farmers' Home Administration.

My family stands with the Texas Hog Hunters Association in its legal actions against TDA's feral hog poison program. This program was not well thought out nor given the public and expert discussions that was required. I know many nearby landowners that hunt the hogs and for their own recreation and food. Clearly there is an existing market for dead and live captured hogs. That market should be financially helped to spur even more normal harvesting of feral hogs. Most of my nearby ranchers will agree that the hog numbers are somewhat out of control, but that the state could and should assist in their harvesting in more traditional means by paying for tagged ears and partially fund feral hog traps.

Poisoned hogs don't immediately die and they can take up to 9 days to do so, while their traveling several miles from point of the poisoning. I'm no PETA member as I believe in our current hunting regulations. In my opinion, this program will cause the hunters and the market buyers to slow their harvesting and possibly add to the hog population. I damn sure don't want a poisoned hog coming onto my property long after someone else has used the bait. That is nothing but a trespass of my sacred private property rights caused by the poisoning property owner.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW TDA'S FERAL HOG PROGRAM TO STAND!

Sincerely,



John D. Pieratt
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