

WHEREAS, access to clean, high-quality potable water in appropriate quantities is a primary right of the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments members (hereinafter referred to as ACOG); and

WHEREAS, preservation of soil and air quality are equally valuable to ACOG members; and

WHEREAS, ensuring these elements for its residents and businesses is the pre-eminent obligation of ACOG members; and

WHEREAS, SQ 777 would compromise ACOG members' ability to provide an ample and safe water supply to its residents at reasonable expense; and

WHEREAS, providing these benefits and infrastructure to its residents, and maintaining them, is an on-going and ever-increasing financial burden for ACOG members; and

WHEREAS, a core function of ACOG members, as allowed by Title 11 Oklahoma Statutes Section 43, is to regulate land usage and zoning according to community desires and needs, through community-based processes and zoning ordinances, while protecting property rights of all citizens, and planning for the successful growth and development of ACOG members; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments to the Oklahoma Constitution provided in SQ 777 provide protection for a specific group of residents and industry provided to no other group or industry in the State of Oklahoma, at the expense of all other residents and industry; and

WHEREAS, SQ 777 would take precedence over the ordinances, regulations and plans of ACOG members, compromising their ability and obligation to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, SQ 777 would compromise the ability of the State of Oklahoma, its regulatory agencies, and ACOG members to take action to manage technology that impacts industrial, farming and ranching operations potentially harmful to its residents; and

WHEREAS, guaranteeing access to high-quality and ample quantity of water, and efficient and appropriate delivery systems, under the provisions of SQ 777, could result in extensive and expensive litigation on the part of ACOG members; and

WHEREAS, passage of SQ 777 could result in increased expenses in providing high-quality and ample water as a result of agricultural runoff, chemical treatment, and animal by-products; and

WHEREAS, SQ 777 would allow special consideration of one industry ('farming') that could set a precedent for allowing similar special considerations for any and all industries and practices in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, SQ 777 provides that this special consideration is guaranteed 'forever,' which precludes consideration of any unforeseen practices, treatments, or chemicals, on the obligations and ability of the State of Oklahoma and ACOG members to provide to their residents an ample quantity of high-quality water at a reasonable rate and manageable expense.

Now therefore be it resolved that the ACOG Board of Directors oppose State Question 777 as a threat to ACOG members' ability to meet the needs and requirements of its residents and provide for their health, safety and welfare.