



Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Yvette López, and I am a social-work professional, environmental-justice advocate, and Vice Chair of the National Association of Social Workers—Texas Chapter Eco Social Work Committee. Water is foundational to health, family stability, food production, and community resilience.

As Texas considers the rapid growth of data centers and other energy-intensive technologies, we must ensure that this growth does not compromise water affordability or availability for residents, farmers, and ranchers.

Communities deserve clear information about a facility's projected and actual water use, its water source, expected use during drought and extreme heat, and the potential effect on local water rates.

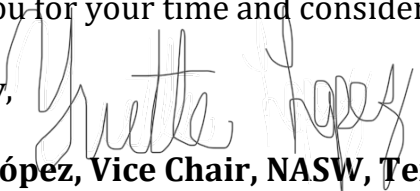
I urge the Legislature to require public water-use reporting, conservation and drought-contingency plans, meaningful local community engagement, and strong water-efficiency standards for large industrial users. Incentives should favor facilities that use reclaimed or non-potable water whenever feasible.

Texas can support innovation without asking families and agricultural producers to bear the cost.

From an eco-social-work perspective, water justice is family justice: when water becomes scarce or unaffordable, the consequences are felt first in households, schools, farms, and communities already facing the greatest barriers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Yvette López, Vice Chair, NASW, Texas Eco Social Work Committee

