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FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. _____

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

1 C.S.H.B. No. 1818 (House committee printing) by adding the
2 following SECTION to the bill and renumbering subsequent
3 SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

4 SECTION _____. Subchapter B, Chapter 81, Natural Resources
5 Code, is amended by adding Section 81.010045 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 81.010045. CERTAIN POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS
7 RESTRICTED. (a) In this section, "political committee" and
8 "political contribution" have the meanings assigned by Section
9 251.001, Election Code.

10 (b) A commissioner may not knowingly accept a political
11 contribution given or offered with the intention that it be used
12 in connection with a campaign for or the holding of any elective
13 office, including the office of commissioner, except during the
14 period:

15 (1) beginning 19 months before the date of the next
16 general election at which the commissioner's office is filled;
17 and

18 (2) ending on the 30th day after the date of that
19 election.

20 (c) A person other than a commissioner may not knowingly
21 accept a political contribution given or offered with the
22 intention that it be used in connection with a campaign for the
23 office of commissioner, except:

24 (1) during the period:

25 (A) beginning 19 months before the date of the
26 next general election at which any commissioner's office is
27 filled; and

28 (B) ending on the 30th day after the date of
29 that election; or

1 (2) during the period beginning on the date a vacancy
2 in the office of commissioner occurs and ending on the date that
3 vacancy is filled.

4 (d) A commissioner may not knowingly accept a political
5 contribution, and shall refuse a political contribution that is
6 received, from a party in a contested case before the commission
7 or a political committee affiliated with such a party during the
8 period:

9 (1) beginning on the date notice of the hearing in
10 the contested case is given; and

11 (2) ending on:

12 (A) the 30th day after the date the decision in
13 the contested case is rendered; or

14 (B) if a request for rehearing is filed:

15 (i) the date the request is denied; or

16 (ii) the 30th day after the date the
17 decision after rehearing is rendered.

18 (e) A commissioner shall return a political contribution
19 that is received and refused under Subsection (d) not later than
20 the 30th day after the date the commissioner received the
21 contribution.

22 (f) The commission shall adopt all rules necessary to
23 implement Subsections (d) and (e), including rules that:

24 (1) direct the commission to maintain a list of the
25 contested cases before the commission and the parties to each
26 case in order to aid the commissioners in complying with those
27 subsections; and

28 (2) ensure that each notice of a hearing in a contested
29 case that is issued by the commission or a commissioner contains
30 information about the political contributions prohibited under
31 Subsection (d).