

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Energy Resources
For HB 1318

Compiled on: Monday, April 3, 2023 7:45 PM

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Hearing Date: April 3, 2023 2:30 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

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Members:

I support HB 1318 as written.

In February 2022 I was approached by a representative of Cass County Brine, LLC (CCB) offering a “Brine Lease” covering minerals I own in an area near Kildare, Cass County, Texas that is productive for Oil & Gas.

The area has many abandoned wells including those used to inject brine wastewater a byproduct of drilling for Oil & Gas.

This is not an Oil & Gas Lease. It is a Brine Lease.

It grants to the Lessee the right to drill wells to extract “brine” and refine it to bromine, magnesium, potassium, lithium, chlorine, iodine, calcium, strontium, sodium, sulfur, barium, solution gas, and all other chemical elements, compounds or produced with or extracted from such salt water.

In my research, I determined the area may be rich in brine that was injected as waste product from producing Oil & Gas wells and brine naturally occurring in the Smackover Formation (10,000’).

South Arkansas has produced brine for refinement for years and recently has companies extracting lithium from that brine.

Standard Lithium, the parent company of Cass County Brine, is perfecting and developing an extraction process at a site near El Dorado, Arkansas.

On Mach 28, 2023, Standard Lithium issued a press release confirming the high grade of lithium in brine extracted from water from existing oil and gas production wells in East Texas (perhaps Cass County).

Brine Extraction as defined in 1985 did not anticipate the value of lithium as a refined byproduct.

The Texas Railroad Commission needs the regulatory authority to permit for “brine mining”.

Thank you for your assistance.

Joe B. Lovelace