

RESOLUTION No. 2025-389

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF
UPSHUR COUNTY OF THE COUNTY OF UPSHUR,
TEXAS OPPOSING THE SALE OF WATER RIGHTS BY
THE NORTHEAST TEXAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
(NETMWD) FROM LAKE O' THE PINES.**

WHEREAS, many of the residents of Upshur County depend on Lake O' the Pines for water supply, economic stability, environmental conservation, and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Lake O' the Pines was built for flood control, water supply to the Northeast Texas region, and recreation.

WHEREAS, Lake O' the Pines is the main source of water for Caddo Lake, the only natural lake in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Sending less water to Caddo Lake, whose flows into it not protected, may significantly harm the environmental, economic, and recreational health of Caddo Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District (NETMWD) was established to manage and distribute water resources responsibly for the benefit of the people that contributed to its formation and ongoing operation; and

WHEREAS, the sale of water rights to outside interests, including large metropolitan areas such as the Dallas Metroplex, may lead to the depletion of local water resources, increased costs for residents in the future, and diminish water security for Upshur County and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the county has a vested interest in ensuring that local water resources are protected for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the county recognizes that one of its prominent cities, Ore City, is a part of NETMWD and holds direct influence over water sales through the director which it appoints to the NETMWD, and

WHEREAS, water is a vital resource for local agriculture, industry, and tourism, all of which contribute to the economic well-being of Upshur County and its residents both inside and outside of Ore City; and

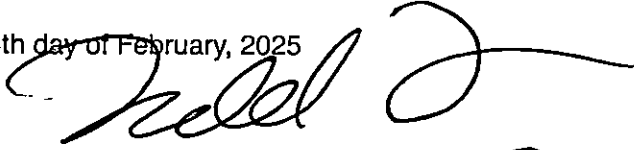
WHEREAS, transparency and public involvement in decisions affecting regional water resources are essential, and the use of nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) in water sales negotiations prevents public oversight and accountability; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Open Meetings Act and the Texas Public Information Act exist to promote government transparency and ensure that public resources, including water, are managed openly and fairly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS:

1. That the Upshur County Commissioners Court formally opposes any sale or transfer of water rights from Lake O' the Pines by NETMWD which would negatively impact local water availability, affordability, or long-term sustainability of northeast Texas.
2. That the Commissioners Court strongly urges NETMWD to reject any agreements that would divert water from Lake O' the Pines by permanently selling the water rights to interests outside northeast Texas region at the expense of the communities that depend on it.
3. That the Commissioners Court opposes the use of nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) in matters concerning the sale, lease, or allocation of water resources and calls for full transparency during all such negotiations.
4. That the Commissioners Court encourages the City Council of Ore City as one Upshur County's important economic and governmental center within Upshur County as a members and part of NETMWD to take a firm stance against sales of water rights that would be detrimental to local interests.
5. That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the Texas Attorney General, all member cities of NETMWD, and Counties of Camp, Morris, Cass, and Marion which contain those member cities.

Passed and approved this 14th day of February, 2025
UPSHUR COUNTY, TEXAS



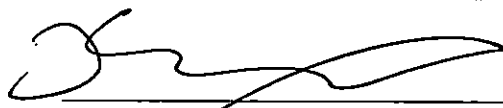
Todd Teftfeller, County Judge



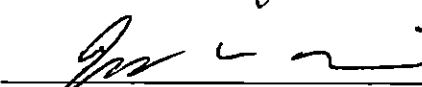
Gene Dolle – Commissioner Pct. #1



Mike Ashley – Commissioner Pct. #3



Dustin Nicholson – Commissioner Pct. #2



Jay W. Miller – Commissioner Pct. #4

ATTEST:



Terri Ross, County Clerk

