Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing on behalf of the Texas Pool and Spa Coalition (TPSC) and our member spa retailers, pool builders and suppliers that serve your city including \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We are requesting that the City Council reconsider its decision to prohibit the filling of new spas and swimming pools as part of your emergency water conservation plan which was adopted by the council on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ( or proposed to be adopted on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

We are very aware that Texas is experiencing a severe drought and that water is a precious commodity we must all actively seek to protect. In that respect, we want you to know that The Pool and Spa industry are indeed water conservationists. In fact, in 2017, we developed a nationally approved water conservation standard proven to save water. And in the same year, The International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC), which incorporates these standards, was adopted statewide. Thus, if you build pools and spas in Texas in accordance to the ISPSC, youre saving water!

However, measures prohibiting the filling of swimming pools and spas threaten the very existence of pool builders and spa retailers in communities that have weathered the COVID-19 storm over the last two years. Pools and spas use very little water, and prohibition is at most a symbolic gesture, with no basis in fact or science indicating that banning the filling of swimming pools and spas would have anything but a de minimis impact on water conservation.

Let me provide some facts relative to standalone spas.

1. The average stand-alone spa contains approximately 350 gallons of water. Once filled, that water can remain in the spa for up to a year.
2. There is very little evaporation or splash loss from a stand-alone spa as they come equipped with insulated covers for when the spa is not in use. This allows the homeowner to keep the water temperature at a point where the spa is ready to use without water or heat loss.
3. Stand-alone spas do not require a building permit, and as such, there is no way to enforce this prohibition.

In summary, the city is not prohibiting homeowners from filling their indoor bathtubs or jetter tubs, many of which use a substantial amount of water for a single use. That water is then flushed down the drain, as opposed to a spa which is filled on a one-time basis. If the goal is to conserve water, we want people to utilize it in a resuable manner, not in a way that encourages single use.

The facts about water use by swimming pools:

1. A new swimming pool requires an average of 14,000-18,000 gallons of water to fill it. When you sum the total amount of water used to fill all new swimming pools that were permitted by the City annually and compare the sum against the average one-day use of water by the city’s residents, you find that filling new pools accounts for less than 1% of a City’s one-day water use.
2. Filling new swimming pools takes less water than car washes that recycle their water. Most car wash facilities that recycle their water use approximately 1.5% of a city’s annual water use.
3. The best water conservation restriction relative to swimming pools and spas is to recommend that cities require pools to be covered when not in use. A pool that is covered when not in use can save up to 97% of the water lost through evaporation.
4. Swimming pools have a huge economic impact on the community – contributing millions of dollars to the city economy each year

Our pool builders, distributors, and retailers live and work in the community. The industry provides good-paying jobs and purchases almost all construction materials from local suppliers. Our members utilize local subcontractors, accountants, tax preparation firms, and many other businesses in the community and pay local taxes and permit fees. A prohibition on filling new pools and spas amounts to the government taking their business away and nullifying the benefits this industry brings to the community, especially where there is no compelling evidence that such action will have a significant effect on water conservation.

For all the reasons cited above, we would implore the City Council to reconsider its decision (or consideration) of including a ban on the filling of new swimming pools and spas. To learn more about the economic impact of our indisutry on Texas, please visit letspooltogether.com/Texas. I would be more than happy to respond to any questions you might have relative to this letter and/or the source of the facts contained herein.

Sincerely,