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OPIELA FILES FOR AG COMMISSIONER
Candidate has \$1 million Cash on Hand

Karnes City Rancher Eric Opiela has officially filed for Texas Agriculture Commissioner, and announced last week that the campaign has already raised over \$1 million in the race, putting the campaign far ahead of its competitors and showing the broad support that Opiela has received from across the Lone Star State.

“All across Texas, grassroots leaders and Republican activists are embracing this campaign,” said Eric Opiela. “The people of Texas want an agriculture commissioner who comes from agriculture, who recognizes the challenges farmers and ranchers face – accessibility to water and ever increasing federal regulation. I’m the only candidate in this race that has actually fought for farmers and ranchers facing eminent domain and water takings proceedings. I’m the only candidate in the race who has experience working on Endangered Species Act listings and has beaten the Obama Administration. Texans want a fighter, and as your next Agriculture Commissioner I will work to protect and promote our agriculture industry.”

Eric Opiela is a fifth generation rancher and operates a 2,300 acre cow-calf ranching operation outside of Karnes City, Texas. As a property rights advocate, Opiela has fought overreaching federal government agencies and currently serves as Chairman of the South Texans’ Property Rights Association’s Eminent Domain Committee. Opiela also serves as president of the Karnes City Independent School District Foundation. Eric and his wife, Lara, split time between Karnes City and Austin with their two children.

“I was born and raised on my family’s ranch; I’ve spent my whole life in agriculture. My father grew 100 acre ranch to 2,300 acre which I now operate, and like every small family farmer and rancher, I want my children to have the opportunity to earn a living off our land. The agriculture industry is under assault from radical environmentalists and government bureaucrats who want to impose regulations aimed at infringing on our private property rights. That’s why I’m running for agriculture commissioner, because our farmers and ranchers and landowners across Texas deserve someone in their corner.”

Opiela is campaigning aggressively and reaching out across the state, logging nearly 40,000 miles around the state and speaking with over 140 different Ag groups, Tea Parties, and Republican clubs. Opiela has received endorsements from State Republican Executive Committee members representing 24 of 31

Texas senate districts.

Campaign Manager Hampton Williams said Opiela's unique mix of agricultural pedigree and experience taking on Washington as a property rights attorney makes him ideally suited to fight for an industry whose biggest foe is not drought or blight, but Washington bureaucrats.

"Texans want someone who will fight for them, someone who is committed to protecting our vital food and fiber industry from out-of-control Washington bureaucrats," Williams said. "They're getting behind this campaign because we need a serious leader prepared to fight on Day One."

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