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## **ERIC OPIELA ANNOUNCES RUN FOR AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER**

*Will oppose Obama's climate change agenda and fight for Texas Farmers and Ranchers*

**KARNES CITY, TEXAS** – Today Eric Opiela, a fifth generation South Texas rancher, Republican leader and property rights advocate, announced his intention to seek the office of Texas Agriculture Commissioner. The seat is being vacated by Commissioner Todd Staples, who is seeking the Republican nomination for Lieutenant Governor.

“Right now the agriculture community and rural Texas are under assault from federal regulators who want to dictate how we use our land. Our farmers and ranchers, whose work accounts for ten percent of our state's economy, are excellent stewards of their land. I'm running for Agriculture Commissioner to serve as a voice of our ranchers, farmers and landowners and stand up against the liberals and bureaucrats from Washington, D.C.”

Opiela currently manages his family's 2,300 acre cattle ranch located in Karnes, Bee, Live Oak and Wilson Counties. As an attorney, he has contributed thousands of hours of pro bono legal representation to defending landowners' rights, advising Republican candidates and party organizations, and winning victories for conservative values in the courtroom and the legislature. Opiela serves as Chairman of the Eminent Domain Committee of South Texans' Property Rights Association.

For over a decade Opiela has been an active leader in the Republican Party of Texas. From 2008-2009, he served as its Executive Director. Currently Opiela sits on the State Republican Executive Committee and serves as its Associate General Counsel, as well as counsel for multiple statewide Republican and conservative organizations.

“As a rancher I've seen firsthand how government agencies impose their will, impede our excellence, and infringe on our property rights. As an attorney, I've fought hard to protect people and their property from bureaucrats. Today President Obama announced his plans to expand his global warming agenda, and the next Agriculture Commissioner must be prepared to take the fight to Washington on behalf of farmers and ranchers and landowners everywhere.”

To help illustrate this, the Opiela campaign has [launched a web video entitled “Bureaucrat.”](#)

Eric is also active in his community, serving as president of the Karnes City Independent School District Education Foundation and is a board member of the Catholic Community Foundation of the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

Eric graduated with honors from the University of Texas at Austin and earned his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Eric and his wife Lara have two children, Natalie and Ryan.