

Jeff Mashburn
3336 FM 934
Itasca, Texas 76055

January 20th, 2025

Glenn Hegar - Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
P.O. Box 13528, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-3528

Regarding: Itasca Independent School District – Failure to Comply with Request for Information

Mr. Hegar,

This letter is being sent in accordance with the rights of taxpayers per the Open Record Acts. The requests are made in good faith and in pursuant of the Texas Public Information Act (the "Act"), Tex. Gov't Code § 552.001.

The taxpayers of Hill County and within the taxing jurisdiction of the Itasca Independent School District have made multiple requests for information pertaining to (3) Chapter 313 Agreements executed by the Itasca ISD and board members. These request have been ignored since 2020 when efforts started by taxpayers to expose fraud and corruption surrounding the agreements executed by the district. The Itasca ISD has refused to cooperate with the request that have been made to date. Efforts to inform officials in Hill County regarding serious issues pertaining to Chapter 313 Agreements and taxpayer rights being violated started with a brief meeting in 2020 with Judge Lewis at the Hill County courthouse. I informed judge Lewis at this time any Chapter 313 Agreement executed in Hill County would not go unchallenged. My concerns were ignored and have been to date by the Hill County officials, Hill County Appraisal District, and the Itasca ISD.

As your office is aware there are major issues surrounding school finance and accountability in Texas including financial accountability and transparency and this includes the Itasca ISD. At this time there are multiple court cases in place and ongoing pertaining to property tax fraud and corruption within central appraisal districts in Texas. Denton, Johnson, Brazoria, Tarrant, and Hill counties are just some of the counties involved and where fraud and corruption have been exposed regarding property tax valuations. These investigations and charges also involve issues pertaining to falsified annual school budgets and failure of ISD's in Texas to produce the bond payment schedules with detailed notes and schedules pertaining bonds issued by these districts including the Itasca ISD.

The lawsuits being pursued by taxpayers in Hill County regarding the Itasca ISD include major issues surrounding the Chapter 313 Agreements executed between the district and solar farm owner/operators. There are major issues regarding the contracts and applications submitted to the State Comptroller's Office that have been exposed. During the process of investigating issues with

the contracts signed and executed by the board members of the Itasca ISD contracts in Bosque, McLennan, Limestone, Navarro, and Ellis were included into the investigations that are ongoing at this time. It is apparent that due diligence was not executed as part of the process of issuing the Chapter 313 Agreements for solar farms located in the counties listed above. There are multiple problems pertaining to key information submitted by solar farm owner/operators and lack of regulation and enforcement by CADs in counties where solar farms are being constructed in Texas.

At this time there are twenty-nine contracts that have been identified totaling ~\$5.2 billion dollars located in six counties. Due to the lack of response by anyone holding office in Texas at any level taxpayers have reached back out to the US Justice Department and federal investigators. I have been involved personally since 2006 to expose fraud and corruption in local government entities and school districts regarding energy related contracts. I have been a key part of the ongoing investigations in the Rio Grande Valley that has resulted in the federal indictments of public officials and school board trustees. These investigations have been expanded in the Rio Grande Valley and now include counties in north central Texas including Hill County and what has transpired to date and now part of the public record.

The following request is being made to your office to provide the following information pertaining to the Chapter 313 Agreements executed by the Itasca ISD in regard to the applications that were submitted and approved by your office.

1. BT Files Solar, LLC- Agreement #1465 (BPL Files Solar, LLC f/k/a BT Files Solar, LLC)
 - a. A total of the tax revenue received from taxes collected by the Hill County Appraisal District for all years the contract has been in place.
 - b. The total of the tax revenues distributed to the Itasca Independent School District to date.
 - c. A total of ANY and all other revenue received by the Itasca Independent School District other than taxes collected by Hill County Appraisal District (HCAD) including but not limited to fees, stipends, or legal cost paid to lawyers and consultants.

2. Hill Solar I, LLC - Agreement #1729
 - a. A total of the tax revenue received from taxes collected by the Hill County Appraisal District for all years the contract has been in place.
 - b. The total of the tax revenues distributed to the Itasca Independent School District to date.
 - c. A total of ANY and all other revenue received by the Itasca Independent School District other than taxes collected by Hill County Appraisal District (HCAD) including but not limited to fees, stipends, or legal cost paid to lawyers and consultants.

3. Hill Solar I, LLC - Agreement #1787
 - a. A total of the tax revenue received from taxes collected by the Hill County Appraisal District for all years the contract has been in place.
 - b. The total of the tax revenues distributed to the Itasca Independent School District to date.
 - c. A total of ANY and all other revenue received by the Itasca Independent School District other than taxes collected by Hill County Appraisal District (HCAD) including but not limited to fees, stipends, or legal cost paid to lawyers and consultants.

4. A certified report from the State Comptrollers Office with details pertaining to how the additional tax revenues from the Chapter 313 Agreements have been spent and utilized to benefit the taxpayers in Hill County and within the taxing jurisdiction of the Itasca ISD to date.

Summary

The State of Texas and elected leaders have failed to serve the citizens of this state with integrity and strong leadership based on sound moral principles for decades regarding financing government entities. The current system of ad-valorem taxation on personal property to fund and keep the broken system(s) of government in operation is and has been un-constitutional since its inception decades ago. As everyone is being made aware over the past couple of years Texas has major problems in government at all levels and this can be no more true than with the Public Education system in Texas. The ad-valorem funding method was a disaster from the very beginning. As the cases progress through the courts, it will become evident to everyone that has been involved in the Ponzi scheme for decades there is no correlation between the cost of education and the value of property in any matter whatsoever. The very fact the State of Texas and leaders complicated the flawed system by adding exemptions such as homestead, senior, veteran, AG and the Chapter 313 Agreement provisions only makes the cases in court easier to make the system was and is flawed in everyway imaginable.

The State of Texas and elected leaders created a multi-tiered ranking of its citizenry and has violated the rights of the same as guaranteed in the US and Texas Constitutions. Everyone involved at every level are co-conspirators to fraud and corruption committed against the citizens of this state and will be held accountable under the law(s) that govern this nation in the United States and Texas Constitutions. Taxpayers across the state are learning just how bad things are in Texas and how they have been the victims of fraud and corruption for many years. Over seven thousand people have responded to the information that has been presented to them over the past five months. There are over thirty-two hundred individuals that have joined forces and signed the petition that is part of the current case before the court in Texas at this time. There are multiple lawsuits being filed for criminal offenses committed by CAD officers and school board members

individually for fraud and corruption with intent to defraud. The evidence is overwhelming and part of the public record.

There are many elected leaders and individual involved at this time across the state and in Austin that are aware how bad things are regarding property taxes and school funding. The State of Texas and elected leaders including the office of the State Comptroller must take action immediately or face the consequences in court and reap the fallout of a total collapse of the financial system in Texas. These matters are serious and cannot be ignored by anyone at any level of office in Texas. The financial impact to taxpayers in Denton, Johnson and Hill Counties alone is staggering. The State of Texas and elected leaders made a huge mistake when they decided to subsidize big business with tax abatements at the expense of taxpayers. See the included article regarding Solar Farms and Chapter 313 Agreements that exposes the fraud and deception related to these agreements.

A response is expected from this office no later than February 3rd, 2025. Please provide a copy of the information as requested above no later than the close of business on February 3rd, 2025. If the Office of the State Comptroller elects not to comply with this request, please provide written statement explaining the position of the State Comptroller's Office. This request and any response will become part of the public record and evidence pertaining the matters as described and declared in this request.

This letter is sent as a courtesy regarding due process and professional integrity.

Respectfully,

Jeff Mashburn

cc: State of Texas Attorney General- Ken Paxton
FBI-Agent Dietrich
Media Outlets, commonsenselaw.org, mockingbirdproperties.com