



Robert A. Morton
Executive Director
P.O. Box 1783
San Marcos, Texas 78667
(512) 282-6621

P.O. Box 132 Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54903 www.naturistsociety.com/NAC

December 22, 2003

County Judge John Murrile

Commissioner Mickey Reynolds
Commissioner Chris King

Commissioner Philip Miller
Commissioner Jimmy Kainer

Honorable Judge and Commissioners of Wharton County:

The Naturist Action Committee is the nonprofit volunteer political adjunct to The Naturist Society, a membership organization representing 30,000 members throughout North America. Naturists participate in the Texas tradition of skinnydipping at remote locations and at private parks and resorts set aside for that purpose. Naturism is a wholesome, family-oriented activity that must not be confused with adult entertainment.

Naturists promote acceptance of the human body, and naturism itself is becoming more widely accepted. A recent nationwide Roper Poll, which I've attached for your reference, shows that 80% of the American public believes that "people who enjoy nude sunbathing should be able to do so without interference from officials as long as they do so at a beach that is accepted for that purpose."

We have become aware of the regulations you are considering for the regulation in Wharton County of sexually oriented businesses. Alarming, that proposed regulation includes definitions that could be construed as characterizing private naturist resorts as "sexually oriented businesses." There are two family naturist resorts presently existing in Wharton County that would be quite unfairly lumped in with strip bars and erotic dancing establishments if the proposed regulation were to be adopted.

Regulations like the one with which you've been presented have been challenged and have been found by courts to be overbroad in their wording. We understand your motivations in considering such regulations, but we suggest that there are more narrowly tailored ways of implementing them.

I ask that you avoid a rush to judgment on this matter that may result in unfairness, hardship and costly litigation. Please allow us to discuss with you alternatives that will allow you to achieve your goal without unfairly characterizing and punishing naturists and naturist businesses in Wharton County.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Naturist Action Committee

Robert A. Morton
Executive Director

ENCLOSURE, AS NOTED