



- or Abate Proceedings (ECF No. 12), Plaintiffs now intend to pursue similar claims in state court, the resolution of which may impact the issues before the Court.
- 3) As such, Plaintiffs have asserted they do not need an immediate ruling on their Motion for Preliminary Injunction. In turn, in light of the Plaintiffs intention to pursue this matter in state court litigation, and the Plaintiffs indication they do not need an immediate ruling on their Motion for Preliminary Injunction, the Defendants do not seek an immediate ruling on their Motion to Dismiss or Abate.
  - 4) In light of the above, the parties do not intend to urge those motions at the hearing. District courts have broad “discretion and inherent power” to stay or continue proceedings “until preliminary questions that may dispose of the case are determined.” *Petrus v. Bowen*, 833 F.2d 581, 583 (5th Cir. 1987) (citing *Landis v. N. Am. Co.*, 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936)). That power includes issuing a stay or continuance before reaching the issue of jurisdiction. *See, e.g., Serafine v. Abbott*, No. 1:20-cv-1249-RP, 2021 WL 3616102, at \*2 (W.D. Tex. May 12, 2021) (Pitman, J.) (Plaintiff sued Governor Abbott over “vexatious litigants” statute, court stayed discovery pending resolution of *Younger* abstention question).
  - 5) Plaintiffs remain opposed to Defendants’ Motion to Consolidate (ECF No. 20) filed on October 20 and set for hearing this Thursday, October 28. *See* ECF No. 21. Defendants continue to seek consolidation, and maintain that it is proper under the first-to-file rule and Rule 42(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and intend to urge their motion at the October 28, 2021 hearing.

Date: October 26, 2021

KEN PAXTON  
Attorney General of Texas

BRENT WEBSTER  
First Assistant Attorney General

Respectfully submitted.

/s/ Patrick K. Sweeten  
PATRICK K. SWEETEN  
Deputy Attorney General for Special Litigation  
Tex. State Bar No. 00798537

WILLIAM T. THOMPSON  
Deputy Chief, Special Litigation Unit  
Tex. State Bar No. 24088531

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
P.O. Box 12548 (MC-009)  
Austin, Texas 78711-2548  
Tel.: (512) 463-2100  
Fax: (512) 457-4410  
patrick.sweeten@oag.texas.gov  
will.thompson@oag.texas.gov

**COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANTS**

/s/ Martin Golando  
THE LAW OFFICE OF MARTIN GOLANDO, PLLC  
Texas Bar No. 24059153  
2326 W. Magnolia  
San Antonio, Texas 78201  
Office: (210) 471 -1185  
martin.golando@gmail.com

**COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing document was filed electronically (via CM/ECF) on October 26, 2021, and that all counsel of record were served by CM/ECF.

/s/ Patrick K. Sweeten  
PATRICK K. SWEETEN

**CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE**

I certify that I conferred with counsel for the Plaintiffs on October 26, 2021, who agreed to the filing of this joint advisory.

/s/ Patrick K. Sweeten  
PATRICK K. SWEETEN