FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2019

Will Ainsworth
Texas Pool & Spa Coalition President
president@txpsc.org

TEXAS POOL & SPA COALITION AIMS TO PROTECT THE
INTERESTS OF TEXAS POOL & SPA INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS
2019 Legislation Session Sets Stage for Successful Year

(AUSTIN, TX)—As the 2019 legislative session concluded Monday, the Texas Pool & Spa Coalition (TPSC), formerly The Aquatic Professionals Education Council (APEC), is pleased to report a top priority has made it to the Governor’s desk.

House bill 2858 would adopt the International Swimming Pool & Spa Code (ISPSC) as it existed on May 1, 2019, as the municipal swimming pool and spa code in the state. If signed into law, the ISPSC would apply to all construction, alteration, remodeling, enlargement and repair of swimming pools and spas, in any municipality that elects to regulate pools or spas. The bill allows a municipality to adopt local amendments as needed as well as establish procedures for the administration and enforcement of the code.

Additionally, as the State does for other codes, the bill provides that a municipality can review and adopt amendments to the ISPSC after May 1, 2019 as a way to incorporate new editions of the ISPSC that come out every three years. Governor Abbott has until June 16 to either sign or veto HB 2858, or if he does not act, it automatically becomes law. The effective date would be September 1, 2020, giving both industry and regulators time to prepare and familiarize themselves with the ISPSC.

APEC, now TPSC, was established in November of 2004 by a small group of pool service professionals with the objective to safeguard, improve and enhance the swimming pool and spa business climate in Texas. The Independent Pool and Spa Service Association (IPSSA), who has been standing by the side of APEC for years, along with pool builders, many who were members of what was the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP), as well as manufacturer and distributors, all work together in Texas to protect the industry.

In January of 2019, APEC consolidated the Board of Directors to create the Texas Pool & Spa Coalition (TPSC) which carries on the objective to strengthen and advance Texas state government relations efforts for the pool & spa industry. The TPSC coalition partners include APEC, the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA), formerly the APSP and National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF), and IPSSA.

“When we realigned as the Texas Pool & Spa Coalition (TPSC), we wanted to make the needs of Texas pool
and spa industry professionals our top priority,” said TPSC Board President, Will Ainsworth. “At the end of our first official legislative session as TPSC, I’m proud to say that we have achieved the goals set for ourselves through this transition. House bill 2858 would implement a common statewide code for pools and spas, eliminating the current patchwork of regulations across the state that makes it difficult for businesses. With continual hard work and perseverance, we will set the stage for future successful seasons. I look forward to working with our dedicated TPSC Board Members and lobbyists to move to the front issues that impact the livelihood of those in Texas and the industry.”

During the 2019 legislative session, the TPSC has achieved great things, and works hard year-round on key legislative and regulatory priorities impacting Texas pool and hot tub professionals. TPSC has been instrumental in moving forward and ensuring issues take center stage with legislators and regulators through:

- Lobbying efforts from Jake Posey and Steve Koebele.
- Industry leader committee testimony to state legislators on key issues that matter most to Texas pool and hot tub professionals, resulting in passage of ISPSC legislation.
- Educating Building Officials and Inspectors on the benefits of the International Swimming Pool & Spa Code (ISPSC) and the power behind 44 local Texas jurisdictions adopting the code with the goal to increase the number of adoptions.
- Monitoring over 13 state bills and 25 local pool and hot tub industry ordinances. Over the past eight legislative sessions the TPSC has successfully engaged with hundreds of bills that could have placed unnecessary burdens on the pool and spa industry and consumers.
- State advocacy efforts included prolonged negotiations in 2018 with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), which led to a positive clarification to the scope of work of Texas Residential Appliance Installers License (RAIL) holders that ensure they are now fully recognized to perform common pool-related services without the threat of TDLR violations.
- The TPSC has also been engaged with the Department of State Health Services on proposed new rules for artificial swimming lagoons, providing comments in February 2019. We expect to be involved in upcoming changes to the public pool and spa rules currently being drafted.

Just last week the TPSC exhibited at a Building Officials Association of Texas BPI conference in Irving. For the remainder of 2019, TPSC will be exhibiting at several Texas key industry events educating government officials, code officials and inspectors, as well as other attendees on the importance of state-wide adoption of the ISPSC. The TPSC will encourage municipalities to adopt the ISPSC even before legislation takes effect and offer the ability to provide ISPSC classes and detailed documentation on what it includes.

Here is the list of dates and locations where you will see them next:

- Aug. 6-9 | Montgomery, TX: Building Officials Association of Texas Annual Conference
- Oct. 9-11 | San Antonio, TX: Texas Municipal League Annual Conference

Further, the ISPSC class will be offered June 29 in conjunction with the in-person TPSC Board meeting and at the Central Texas BPI conference this coming November. We expect to add additional training dates later this Summer, details forthcoming, stay tuned.
About APEC
The Aquatic Professionals Education Council (APEC) is a not-for-profit group recognized for its expertise in advocacy representing the interests of the pool industry in Texas. APEC works to protect the interests of the Texas pool and spa industry and the consumer through education and advocacy while promoting superior standards of safety and efficiency.

About PHTA
The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance was formed in 2019, combining the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) and the National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF). With the mission to “Celebrate the Water,” PHTA facilitates the expansion of swimming, water safety and related research and outreach activities aimed at introducing more people to swimming, making swimming environments safer and keeping pools open to serve communities. For more information, visit APSP.org or NSFP.org.

About IPSSA
The Independent Pool and Spa Service Association (IPSSA) is the world’s largest pool service industry organization. IPSSA works to protect the interests of pool service professionals and offer their members a variety of benefits including insurance coverage, networking opportunities, in-demand business tools and monthly industry updates in The IPSSAN. For more information on IPSSA, visit www.ipssa.com.