

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 4146

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Hearing Date: April 12, 2021 2:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Eric Gallardo, Land Owner

Self

Uvalde, TX

Keep our river clean!

Patricia Windom

Self

Boerne, TX

Keep our treasured streams/rivers healthy please!

Nancy Hanus

Self

Blanco, TX

No discharge of waste into Texas waterways please

Heather Francell

Self

Georgetown, TX

Please help us keep Texas waters safe by restricting permits like HB 4146 states.

Karen Hixon

self, investments

San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of the approval of this bill

Gernot Burmeister

Self

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

April Smith

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WaterSmith Water & Wastewater Services LLC

Bandera, TX

My husband and I run our Water and Wasterwater business in Bandera, TX. It is absolutely necessary that we not allow discharge into our rivers and streams. There are so many other options available for businesses that wish to discharge! Discharging only ruins our water supply and will leave nothing for our future. It creates algae blooms which cannot be fixed!

Doug Marsh

Self

Austin, TX

I support passage of this bill

Connie Barron

self / Retired and nature education volunteer

Blanco, TX

As a central Texas resident, Naturalist and water recreation enthusiast, I strongly support this legislation. We must protect our rivers and streams to sustain many of our rural communities' tourist revenues as well as quality of life. We can find better ways to deal with treated wastewater than discharging it into our few remaining pristine bodies of water. Please vote "yes" and move this bill forward. Thank you.

Alyson Goodhartz

None

Spicewood, TX

Please support!

Please keep our rivers clean and pure

Lori Olson, Exec. Director

Texas Land Trust Council

Wimberley, TX

TLTC supports HB 4146 and encourages the committee to move it forward in the legislative process. This bill would prohibit new wastewater discharge into our few remaining pristine rivers and creeks in Texas, including certain sections of the Llano, Pedernales, Comal, Guadalupe, Medina, Nueces, and San Marcos Rivers, as well as Barton Creek and Onion Creek. These pristine streams are precious to Texas and exemplify some of the highest quality water resources in Texas. These streams provide fish and wildlife habitat, opportunities for public recreation, and are keeping them clean is essential to the economies of their nearby communities. We need to do all we can to protect the water quality of these pristine streams. Their ecology is fragile and discharging even the highest quality treated wastewater could cause irreparable damage to the health of the ecosystem. Please pass HB 4146.

Vladimir Gerasimenko

self, landowner

Bulverde, TX

As a landowner, I strongly support this bill!

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Sara Breshears

Self

San Antonio, TX

I grew up on the Frio and Nueces Rivers and I believe it is vitally important that we do everything within our power to keep these rivers clean and pristine. I would swim in the Frio river and the water is so clear you could see the bottom and all the fish and even turtles. The entire local economy depends on these rivers being clean and clear. This should be a point of Texas Pride that our rivers are as pristine as they are and we should strive to keep them that way so that our kids and grandchildren can appreciate and enjoy them.

Debra Scott

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I support HB4146. Protection of Texas waterways is essential. Freshwater is a limited commodity that cannot be replaced. Developmental growth and excessive runoff already threaten water quality, and toxic algal blooms have been found around the Austin area. Several dogs have gotten ill and/or died from these blooms. This bill is a step in helping protect our water quality. Please consider strengthening protections for this essential resource.

Pamela Rosar

self, artist

Camp Wood, TX

Please hear our voices! Preserve the last remaining clear waters in TX by passing this bill. Allow future generations to experience the unique beauty of these Hill Country streams!

Ed Ragsdale

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB 4146. Proper land application of treated wastewater discharge is a far better alternative than direct point source discharges to headwater stream segments on the Edwards Plateau. These clear spring-fed streams are characterized by low nutrients concentrations. High nutrients from wastewater discharges will change water chemistry, alter aquatic biological communities, and ruin the aesthetic value of the streams due to profound algal growth. Anyone who has seen or swam in these streams know they are state treasures.

Joyce Skloss

My fellow Texans

Buda, TX

With the Texas economy booming and population skyrocketing, it's incumbent upon us humans to preserve the health of all our waterways. Once spoiled, there is no turning back. That is why it is important to NOT grant the release of wastewater into any more of our rivers and streams especially the LAST remaining pure waterway, the DEVIL'S RIVER.
Thank you.

Cynthia Wilcox

Self, President, Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods (volunteer position)

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AUSTIN, TX

Please vote "yes" on HB 4146 to keep sewage effluent out of creeks and streams.

Discharging sewage effluent immediately pollutes waterways and causes toxic algae blooms. Over the long term, permitting discharge also virtually guarantees that even more hazardous raw sewage will eventually contaminate waterways - when there is the inevitable equipment malfunction, power outage, etc.

Please protect one of our state's most precious natural resources- fresh water. There are many alternatives for processing sewage that do not include dumping effluent into creeks and streams.

Thank you for keeping sewage out of Texas waterways.

Scott Moorhead

Audubon Texas

Austin, TX

We support this common-sense measure to beneficially reuse treated wastewater and mitigate nutrient loading in our waterways. The bill provides common sense strides toward protecting our most pristine river systems while protecting private property rights of landowners and the plants, birds, and other wildlife that depend on healthy aquatic ecosystems. Promoting prudent beneficial reuse of water in some of our state's most resource-challenged geographies and providing the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality useful and science-based tools to carry out its mission of protecting Texas and Texans is good for all of us.

Andrew Graham

Self

Wimberley, TX

I support HB 4146.

Sheryl Pender

self, retired clinical social work and RN

Kerrville, TX

Allow our land to be valued both economically and scenically by curtaining and prohibiting the discharge of treated wastewater into ALL our streams, creeks and rivers. Take a stand to protect our waters in the Hill Country. Best do it NOW as development is upon us. Our property values, our plants and our animals depend on the ecology of clean water. And we, the citizens of the Hill Country depend on you to do the right thing to protect and conserve our natural resources. Thank you.

Eva Ott

Self

San Marcos, TX

As a biologist who has edited numerous volumes on freshwater biology and as a long-time resident of the Hill Country, I urge support of this vital legislation to protect the pristine streams and creek of the Hill Country. These are low-nutrient waters, often with low flow, and direct discharge of even treated water can be very damaging. We need to pursue alternatives to direct discharge in this sensitive environment.

Michelle Blunt

Self

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Ft worth, TX

I think this great. Save our rivers

Troy Dorman

Self Environmental Engineer

SAN ANTONIO, TX

The Texas Hill country is a precious gem of our state that deserves to be protected. Many people are moving to Texas and have settled across the Hill Country increasing the demand for water supply and wastewater treatment. This bill provides the opportunity for a win-win where residents have a way to not only manage their waste but water their landscapes and protect the streams. As an avid fisherman who has taught all of his children to fish on pristine Hill Country streams, I hope this bill will pass to protect that opportunity for future generations.

John Newman

Newman Brothers

San Antonio, TX

As a landowner in Bandera County and native Texan, I strongly support HB 4146 to prohibit wastewater discharge into the few (40!) remaining pristine Texas stream segments.

The current TCEQ process is a waste of state resources and human capital. After a two year fight with Camp OTX (from Arkansas) in Tarpley over its wastewater discharge permit, the negotiated settlement was not yet finalized when the Hill Country community had to come together again to fight the Young Life (from Colorado) wastewater discharge permit north of Utopia.

This is a painful reminder that applications for direct wastewater discharge into pristine streams by private organizations are popping up with increasing frequency. Fighting these applications is extraordinarily expensive and time-consuming. To contest these applications affected parties like nearby landowners, residents, recreation-related businesses, and nature lovers are forced to spend thousands of dollars on fees for attorneys, water quality experts, and water quality reports.

There are alternatives to direct discharge. This legislation gives TCEQ all the right reasons to say NO to the degradation of pristine streams, and instead, to require very doable and reasonable means of disposal through land application, irrigation, and beneficial reuse

Casey Theis

I support HB4146

New Braunfels, TX

I support HB4146

K L Perry

SHM

Fredericksburg, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our waterways. Thanks

Suzanne McCurley

Self Suzanne McCurley, Therapist

Austin, TX

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I have lived in Austin and enjoyed the parks very much, then I went away for 8 years. When I came back, I was saddened and appalled that I stepped in a stream and slipped from the pollution and immediately broke my arm. This was below a neighborhood and I knew that it was the runoff of all the fertilizers upstream. See have to do a better job of keeping our waterways safe for people and wildlife!!!

Preston Wheeler

self retired

Austin, TX

I am in favor of this bill. I have property on the West Prong of the Medina River. Lets do everything we can to keep them clean. Look at Lady Bird Lake and Lake Travis. You can not even let your dog swim any more. When I was young, Longhorn Dam was not built. I canoed on the then river. It was pristine. There were actually a few Beavers on the river.

Michael Langlinais

Self

Medina, TX

We urgently need protection for these 43 streams that are now pristine!

Aaron Raper

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB4146

Katherine Peake

self

Dripping Springs, TX

I live on the Pedernales River in Pedernales Place, Blanco County. I have been a volunteer water monitor for the Colorado River Network/LCRA for about 10 years, having monthly monitored 7 sites over the years, including Baron's Creek and Lower South Grape Creek (Gillespie County) and Flat Creek, Barton Creek and the Pedernales (Blanco & Hays Counties). The Pedernales and it's tributaries are some of the cleanest, most pristine waters in Texas. I URGE you to vote for restrictions on direct discharge of waste or pollutants in, to these stream segments. I know first hand the benefits of clean, natural waters for recreation, and animal habitat. Water is the lifeblood in so many ways, and this bill is a step in the right direction.

Paula Cairns

Self

Boerne, TX

Honorable Committe Members,

I would like to state that I am in favor of HB 4146 and ask that you support it. This bill is a commonsense bill that will protect the health, safety and welfare of Texas residents and we must be proactive in stewarding our water resources for the future. Thank you, Paula Cairns

tIFFANY HARRIS, 2626

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Self - Community Vitality Coordinator

New Braunfels, TX

We don't want to be another Florida with toxic wastewater flowing into our waterways. We need to do all we can to protect our waterways now!

Robert Weber

Kayak Trippin Texas

FORT WORTH, TX

I support this bill, as I use Texas waterways for recreation.

Alice Strunk

hudspeth River Ranch Lamb & Goat, LLC

Comstock, TX

Please vote in FAVOR of this bill to keep wastewater from being discharged in streams which have consistently maintained below detectable levels of Phosphorus such as the Devils River. I am the owner of the headwaters of the Devils River. I believe the last remaining pristine water bodies can be protected by empowering the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to prohibit the direct discharge of treated wastewater into these rivers and instead requiring alternative means of disposal through land application, reuse or other means. Thank you for your support.

Karen Balthrop

self housewife

Dripping Springs, TX

Our pristine rivers need protection now for us and future generations; and wildlife and plants and fish. Our rivers belong to all Texans and should not be damaged by corporations or developers. Future Texans and landowners near these rivers thank you for voting for HB 4146 and protecting Texas' few remaining pristine rivers.

Karen Balthrop, Land owner in Dripping Springs

Karen Ford

self

San Marcos, TX

Texas has some beautiful, iconic pristine streams still remaining. Places that have yet to be degraded by human influence. Places that must be protected from the discharge of human wastewater. It seems a small, reasonable, practical, protective and wise thing to do — especially when there are other affordable and innovative ways to manage human wastewater that do no harm. This bill from Chairman King promises to do no harm - to our most pristine ecosystems and waters of our State, to local landowners and business owners, to Texas recreationists and lovers of special places and clean pristine waters. I urge you to vote in favor of HB-4146. Karen Ford

Jere Sepulveda, Mrs.

Myself as a landowner along the Frio River - self, landscaper/nursery

Leakey, TX

Please keep discharge out of our rivers....clean water is LIFE!

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Cynthia Howze

self and the general public

Dripping Springs, TX

Please support HB 4146 I am a landowner and tax payer and do not want to see these streams and rivers contaminated. I support restrictions and permits authorizing discharges.

Joyce Skloss

My fellow Texans

Buda, TX

PLEASE keep at least some of our Texas waters clean and pure. With the population of Texas exploding, we all know the load on our wastewater. Please focus on the last pristine waterways in our state. Please preserve the DEVIL's RIVER that flows into Lake Amistad.

PLEASE.

THANK YOU.

Michelle Pokorny

self and Rio Lupe LLC

San Antonio, TX

Protecting the quality (and quantity) of Texas' water and rivers is of utmost importance. This fair and balanced regulation legislation will prevent wastewater discharge when reasonable and viable alternatives exist—and will help protect our last pristine streams. This legislation will help TCEQ help Texas. Prohibition of discharge into ultra-pure natural waters is a true win-win for tourism economies, land owners, property values, healthy aquatic systems, and all people of Texas. TLAP allows for the disposal of treated wastewater by land application where soil microbes and green plants can utilize the phosphorus and avoids degrading our streams and rivers. Treated wastewater can be a valuable water resource and TCEQ allows its beneficial reuse through its Chapter 210 Reuse Authorization. Please, do the right thing for Texas and pass this promptly. Thank you...

Fred Fisher, Engineer

Self engineer and outdoorsman

San Antonio, TX

Please protect our tourism industry and the health of our rivers. They are vital to families who fish, hunt, swim and camp around them. If they are degraded to the point that they become a liability all those industries will suffer. That runs the gamut from large hotel chains, to mom and pop Airbnb's. The tourism money that flows into rural Texas is sometimes the lifeblood of their communities. As an outdoorsman and an engineer I've witnessed the decline of our rivers and parks and am faced with explained to my children how there used to be so much more wildlife and to see the wonder in their eyes as I explain the abundance and the vibrancy that used to be and then they look around and see the reality it is now it's not what we all want for our children. We can do this we can protect our beautiful state to which so many more people want to enjoy. Respectfully I ask you to Please protect Texas outdoors. Thank you.

Karen Buck

Self. Farmer, Rancher.

Fredericksburg, TX

I strongly support this bill. Please vote FOR it.

My farm is right on the Pedernales River. For generations our family has enjoyed use of the river. Please KEEP it clean by

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stopping wastewater from being poured into our waterways. The cost to Texas of allowing wastewater into our rivers and stream (of course any river, not just the Pedernales) would come at a high cost. To ever make the rivers pristine again would be very difficult if not impossible.

Texans want to continue to enjoy our rivers. And wildlife and plants also need pure water.

Thank you so much for keeping our rivers pure.

Karen A Buck

Sarah Kim

Self - natural resources specialist

Austin, TX

As an employee of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and as a concerned citizen, I believe it's tantamount that we protect Texas water bodies from being further polluted. HB 2771 was passed a couple legislative sessions ago. While I'm sure everyone is familiar with this bill, TCEQ is getting ready to issue oil and gas permits allowing facilities to discharge treated wastewater into Texas surface waters. We cannot be certain about how discharge from these facilities will affect ecosystems and citizens living downstream of the effluent, but I certainly don't want that in my backyard. I think the people and animals of Texas deserve access to clean water bodies without worrying about environmental contaminants. As a state employee, I feel that it is my responsibility to speak in the interests of my friends and neighbors. I'm in support of HB 4146 and SB 1747 so that we can continue enjoying the great state of Texas with a clearer conscience. Lets protect our water bodies from further contamination and molestation.

Michael Molak, Mr.

self / banking executive

San Antonio, TX

Please support this important legislation. We must protect our most valuable resource, water, in every way possible. I am not a landowner that would be directly impacted by waste and discharge into streams and rivers. However, I am a concerned voter who wants to protect waterways and the natural beauty of our great State. Thank you.

John Tate

self, retired

Austin, TX

Favoring HB 4146, by King, Tracy O.

There are a number of streams and stream segments in the Hill Country, the Nueces and Devil's River Basins, which have no or almost no phosphates, indicating that are still very clean and unpolluted. They support precious biological diversity and extremely valuable recreational opportunities, and they provide great economic benefits to the surrounding communities.

HB 4146, by Tracy O. King, would protect 43 of these streams and stream segments from direct discharge of treated wastewater effluent. Current permit standards that TCEQ has in place for direct discharge are not sufficient to maintain these streams and stream segments in their current pristine condition.

Land developments have available a better alternative to direct discharge into streams, namely, beneficial application of treated wastewater to the land. This prevents the degradation of water quality in the streams, and makes use of the water for irrigation. And the water will be far cleaner when it eventually reaches the groundwater or surface waters by an indirect path.

Please vote in favor of HB 4146.

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Kimberly Smith

Self/Realtor

SA, TX

In favor!!

Kimberly Fulton

Double K Real Estate

Uvalde, TX

I'm asking for your support in keeping wastewater out of the last pristine waters in Texas, especially the Nueces River. Please don't let applicants get discharge permits into the Nueces basin headwaters.

Ginger Faught, Deputy City Administrator

City of Dripping Springs

Dripping Springs, TX

The City of Dripping Springs wishes to provide information on this bill, but we understand it does not currently apply to cities as drafted. The City of Dripping Springs recognizes the critical need for wastewater infrastructure to support the continuous improvement of our economic environment, the City's publicly stated intent for beneficial reuse as opposed to discharge, and the need to conserve potable water by using treated effluent where feasible. Regional wastewater treatment facilities with 210 (reuse) Authorizations are vastly more protective of the environment than on-site sewage disposal systems. The reasons why this bill would be problematic is that it would: (1) encourage on-site sewage disposal systems; (2) discourage regional wastewater facilities; (3) discourage 210 (reuse) authorizations; and (4) hobble an entity's ability to adequately provide environmentally protective wastewater services for its region. If this bill were to apply to cities, we would be opposed for the reasons stated herein.

Diana Borden

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB 4146 to protect public lands and drinking water, including the Texas State Parks in the Hill Country, and the municipal parks enjoyed by thousands of people, and central to the economies, of places like New Braunfels, San Marcos, Wimberley, and the many smaller towns and rural areas nearby.

Glenn Glover

self retired

Austin, TX

No discharge of waste or pollutants into the waters of the upper Nueces, Frio and Sabinal rivers. I support HB4146.

Alejandro Mejia

self

San Marcos, TX

In Favor

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Benjamin Baudouin
Self - Natural Resources Manager
Austin, TX

I am opposed to the discharge of wastewater into the included streams.

Michelle Pokorny
self and Rio Lupe LLC
San Antonio, TX

I am a new landowner on the Guadalupe, and grew up in South Texas on the Nueces. Please, do the right thing for so many reasons and pass this legislation. It makes sense in every way, and valuable alternatives to distribution of wastewater into our pristine rivers exist. Thank you.

Virginia Condie, Executive Director
San Marcos River Foundation
San Marcos, TX

I am writing in on behalf of the San Marcos River Foundation, in support of the passage of HB 4146. The San Marcos River Foundation board passed a resolution supporting the prohibition of the permitting of wastewater discharge to certain classified stream segments and assessment units with proven non-detectable levels of nutrients present over the past ten years.

"WHEREAS, clean, clear, pristine rivers, streams, creeks and lakes within Texas support the state's visitor and recreation-based economy and contribute to the value of private lands that lie along them; and

WHEREAS, their water is clear and pristine because it carries low levels of nutrients, like phosphorus; and

WHEREAS, Total Phosphorus has been monitored by TCEQ over the past ten years and that data is certified and stored in the agency's official Surface Water Quality Monitoring database; and

WHEREAS, this data shows that a small number of these water bodies have shown an amount of the Total Phosphorus has been below detectable levels (.06 mg/l) in 90% of all samples taken from them.

WHEREAS, treated wastewater contains phosphorus and other nutrients in far higher concentrations than has existed in this pristine water and will degrade water quality and may result in algal blooms, fish kills, and interruption of recreational use, and

WHEREAS, this pristine water can be protected by prohibiting direct discharge of treated wastewater and instead requiring alternative means of disposal through land application, reuse or other means; and

WHEREAS, the San Marcos River Foundation recognizes the value of this pristine water to the environment and economy of the State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board and Staff of the San Marcos River Foundation:

The San Marcos River Foundation, hereby, supports legislation prohibiting the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality from authorizing the discharge of treated wastewater or pollutants into the pristine water as defined by HB 4146 and SB 1747.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 26th DAY OF March, 2021."

Please support the protection of Pristine Streams in Texas for both environmental and eco-tourism reasons. Thank you.

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Shelly Humphrey
Self
College Station, TX

Please continue to fight for the passing of this very important bill that will protect what's left of our pristine Texas rivers for future generations.

A. Ryland Howard
Head of the River Ranch
San Antonio, TX

I am in full support of HB 4146, addressing a much needed situation to protect pure water streams from phosphorus pollution and degradation. We are the owners of the headwaters springs of the South Concho River, the largest flowing source of water for the City of San Angelo. This is a pure Edwards Plateau stream, protected by its landowners and utilized as a natural laboratory by Angelo State University. Treated wastewater discharge would destroy the quality of this stream and be an economic burden on the town of Christoval and the many landowners along the river's course.

This Bill is a major opportunity for the State of Texas to protect the future integrity of its Edwards Plateau streams, known statewide for their purity.

Respectfully, A. Ryland Howard

wanda craig
self
Friendswood, TX

I am in favor of House Bill 4146. It will protect our unique natural resources that Texans have enjoyed for generations. It will protect property values of private lands in Texas. It will protect plants & wildlife that depend on a stable and healthy aquatic ecosystem.

Jeannie Dullnig
Self
San Antonio, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I urge you to vote for HB 4146 and preserve the remaining unpolluted, pristine rivers of Texas! Thank you for your service to our great state.

Katheine Lee
Citizen
Houston, TX

I am in support of this bill. We need to protect these waters

Melanie McBroom
Self/Nanny
Midlothian, TX

Please help us keep our Texas streams, creeks and rivers clean and safe for the benefit of the wildlife and citizens of Texas. Especially since there are better alternatives for this waste water.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Denise Dever

SELF

Boerne, TX

I am FOR HB 4146. Texas Hill Country is one of the few places left in our United States with pristine waters. Once Wastewater is allowed to enter the waterways recover of the entire ecosystem is impossible. There is no way currently to maintain, or recover, a natural pristine waterway once Wastewater is introduced. Treated Wastewater can be clean but technological cannot provide the needed environment for natural waters and aquatic wildlife. Please pass HB 4146 without substitutions.

Eric Radjef

self

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Anna Farrell-Sherman

Environment Texas

Austin, TX

We support this bill. Our pristine streams and rivers are the pride of Texas and should forever be protected as such.

Teri Muse

Self- teacher / artist

San Marcos, TX

Pass this bill to support CLEAN WATER!

Abby Rodgers

Self, event operations manager

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

Gary Krause

Self Rancher

Leakey, TX

I thought this was already the law. Pass it and make it so! I know our state run facilities use processed water for non edible agricultural use only. I also know the processed water in Corpus Christi sells waste water for \$1 per gallon for use in the oilfield. NEVER put it into a stream. They are too delicate.

Rick Ertel

self, attorney

Mountain Home, TX

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I support this bill because the TCEQ has not been effective in preventing discharges of waste and pollutants from entering streams in the ecologically sensitive and environmentally important Texas Hill Country.

Gwen Flory, Ms

Landowner of river property

Austin, TX

I support HB 4146 - we need to preserve our pristine Texas rivers for future generations. Wastewater has ruined too many of our precious spring-fed rivers for both humans and wildlife. I oppose any discharge of wastewater into our rivers and streams. Please protect this irreplaceable resource!

Betty Ann McFatter

Self. Senior Citizen.

Junction, TX

When I was about eleven years old, I swam in a swimming hole with other young folks. The river was very low that year, and the the swimming hole murky. I would go underwater. I saw river "moss" and fuzzy old fecal matter. We all kept swimming, because we were full of life. Within twenty-four hours I felt the first twinge of a middle ear infection. Then a twinge in the other ear. Turns out I had fungus growing in my ears. It was the worst pain I have ever had in my life. I thank God it was not an brain eating amoeba

Deborah Youngblood, Ms.

self/retired

Fredericksburg, TX

We all know what happens when treated wastewater is dumped into our creeks and rivers - they become clogged with algae and eventually stop running. Fish cannot live in them. Birds will go elsewhere. People cannot swim in them. The water, if it can be found, is undrinkable. The only people who want to dump wastewater into our creeks and rivers are developers who do not care about the environment, the future or clean water. I strongly urge you to support this bill and if you have an opportunity to strengthen it, please do so. Find ways to prevent grand-fathering, to stop the current dumping. My own town, Fredericksburg, is dumping their waste water into the Pedernales River. Each time I cross the river and see the algae build up, I cringe. This is a river that goes underground every summer, down to our aquifer, down to our drinking water. PLEASE stop this any way you can.

Suanne Pyle

Self Retired

Port Aransas, TX

We need to preserve our rivers. All life depends on clean water. If we pollute the water we are ruining it for plants, wildlife and ourselves.

Jed Morrison

Self

San Antonio, TX

I own property in Gillespie County on School Creek, and about equidistant between the Guadalupe and Pedernales Rivers. I support HB 4146 to give the TCEQ statutory authority to do the right thing: which is to prohibit wastewater discharge into certain remaining pristine Texas rivers. The Hill Country has many more straws drinking out of the same cup than ever before, and we need to do everything feasible to protect those waters and prevent degradation of the watersheds. In times of continued drought in

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particular, the impact of treated wastewater on already compromised streamflows is further enhanced.

I understand that wastewater discharge applicants have other economically feasible ways to handle the disposal of their water, and this law would simply give the TCEQ the ability to continue to protect one of our greatest and most unique resources---Texas rivers.

Linda Maxwell

Self

Bellaire, TX

Please don't allow the discharge of pollutants!

James Moore

Self

Concan, TX

Prohibit the discharge of any and all, untreated and treated waste water into the upper Frio River north of Highway U. S. 90.

Paul Sanchez-Navarro

Defenders of Wildlife

Austin, TX

H.B. No. 4146 (King)

Defenders of Wildlife supports HB4146 (King) that would restrict "...permits authorizing direct discharges of waste or pollutants into water in certain stream segments or assessment units." As the Texas population grows and wastewater needs increase along with this growth, it is vital that the state improve the quality of all wastewater and reduce the amount of pollutants we release back into nature. Nutrient loads in wastewater, especially phosphates and nitrates can wreak havoc on the species dependent on aquatic habitats. Nutrient overloads can cause severe algal growth, resulting in eutrophication and the suffocation of native animal and plant species. Endangered salamander species in the Edwards Plateau region are especially affected. The pollutants can also cause illnesses to domestic animals and humans. We have seen negative impacts in the Town Lake area of the Colorado river in Austin, when people are warned to keep their dogs out of the water.

Founded in 1947, Defenders of Wildlife is a national non-profit conservation organization focused on wildlife and habitat conservation across the country. Headquartered in Washington, DC, the organization also maintains six regional field offices and represents more than 2 million members and supporters in the United States and around the world. Defenders' Texas program, based in Austin, represents more than 98,500 members and supporters in the state.

This bill is an important step in giving the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) the authority it needs to complete its mandate regarding the water quality in the state. Direct discharges of waste or pollution into streams ends up in most of our major waterways, impacting many more people and much more wildlife than one could imagine. TCEQ and other entities have the pollution data and technology to reduce pollutants from wastewater exists and this bill will help all actors move closer to using it for a cleaner water future in Texas.

Thank you.

Paul Sanchez-Navarro

Senior representative, Texas

Defenders of Wildlife

psanchez-navarro@defenders.org

McCann Northington

Self owner, Cornerstone Automotive

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San Antonio, TX

I am a kayaker and I have enjoyed kayaking the clear waters of the Devil's River and Nueces River. I encourage you to keep these rivers in their unpolluted, natural state by voting for HB 4146. Thank you.

Betty Melcher

Planet Earth

Lago vista, TX

Are you really debating the discharge of known pollutants into our water bodies??

Go try to live on the Moon, or Sun, or Mars, or Saturn...or ANY OTHER PLANET! Do you honestly believe there is an alternative planet for yourself, your family, or any of the rest of us to go live on after we ruin Earth???

Joan Mukherjee

Cow Creek Working group

Marble Falls, TX

Restrictions on sewage effluent into our creeks is necessary to preserve them for recreation and beauty. It is heartbreaking to see our once sparkling creeks clogged with algae and stinking. No longer can one wade or swim or just enjoy seeing them. Furthermore clogged, stinking creeks no longer provide homes for turtles, frogs and fish. They even become repulsive as a source of drinking water for wildlife. There are much better ways to treat effluent than sending it down a creek to pollute your neighbors. This has become ever more important as with climate change we are getting less rain to flush the creeks.

Edward Barrows

Self

Blanco, TX

I wish to register my support for this bill

Mary beth Maher

Self

Austin, TX

I SUPPORT passage of HB 4146. It is so important we protect our streams. I often swim in Barton Springs pool and at some time we must consider our Edwards Aquifer a sacred treasure. Hope it is on your watch that our most pristine rivers and creeks across Texas are protected.

Lindy Segall

Hill Country Alliance

Fredericksburg, TX

On behalf of myself, a Texas rancher and property owner, also the Hill Country Alliance and Great Springs Project--please do whatever is necessary to restrict any and all permits for discharging pollutants and/or waste products generated by ANY source into our precious streams and rivers. I grew up on the banks of the Colorado. Ranched on the banks of the Pedernales. Fish and recreate on rivers and streams across the Texas Hill Country. We're ALL downstream from somebody. Our wells are being compromised as waste and pollutants percolate down through the limestone rock formations so prevalent in this region. It must stop now, for this and future generations. Thank you for listening. And acting on our behalf.

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Barbara Baetz, Ms.

Myself

Houston, TX

I own riverfront property on the pristine Sabinal River. I want the river to stay pristine. I want what little Texas water that is still pristine to stay that way. PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING FOR TEXANS. VOTE YES ON CSHB 4146.

Barbara Baggett

Keep Utopia Beautiful

Utopia, TX

Keep Utopia Beautiful passed a resolution today to support this bill. We support ZERO discharge into pristine rivers and streams.

NANCY RINN

Farhaven

UTOPIA, TX

in support of this bill, we need our last remaining pristine clear waterways protected from discharge of wastewater or effluent, whether treated or not. Any discharge degrades these clear waterways

Jane Jones

Self, bookkeeper

Austin, TX

SUPPORT!!! The rate at which citizens are losing clean waterways is terrifying. There are more productive ways to handle wastewater.

Ann Watson

Self retired

San Antonio, TX

I am a conservationist/ landowner and I ask you to vote for HB 4146 to protect the pristine, clear rivers in Texas. Thank you for your service to Texas.

Michael Bowie

Hill Country

Boerne, TX

Against any release of waste or pollutants into any stream.

Kailie Gomez

None

Austin, TX

We owe it to all Texans to protect our unique natural resources. We should have clear regulations that deny permits from discharging wastewater into our long held pristine water.

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Kelly Davis
Save Our Springs Alliance
Austin, TX

On behalf of Save Our Springs Alliance, I write in support of HBCS 4146 and urge this Committee's Honorable Members to report HBCS 4146 favorably out of Committee and on to the House floor for a vote without delay.

Our thousands of members across the Texas Hill Country have long been concerned about permit applications to directly discharge wastewater effluent into Texas streams that naturally contain almost no Total Phosphorus. Low-phosphorus levels indicate pristine water quality and are key to continued healthy aquatic systems, recreational water use, and local tourism economies. This bill would prohibit TCEQ from issuing TPDES permits to discharge treated wastewater effluent directly into qualifying pristine waterways. Across Texas about 43 streams would be protected by the bill.

Overwhelming scientific evidence shows that introducing even small amounts of Total Phosphorus (TP) into these pristine waterways causes algae blooms that are unsightly, foul-smelling, and disrupt existing ecosystems. Algae reduce oxygen-levels in the stream during nocturnal respiration and when they die off. Lower oxygen means native species that have adapted to high-quality, high-oxygen levels can no longer survive in those streams. More undesirable, pollution-tolerant species, like scavengers and parasites, take over.

Baylor University biology professor Dr. Ryan King published a 2020 report assessing the biological health of four Hill Country streams threatened by proposed wastewater discharges: Barton Creek, Onion Creek, Honey Creek. Each would qualify as pristine streams under the bill, and each support a diverse array of native aquatic species. Additionally, Dr. King observed the differences in the Blanco River upstream and downstream from a current wastewater discharge point, finding algae mats covering the water in the downstream stretch, and fewer native fish species.

Currently, TCEQ allows wastewater discharges into Texas's pristine streams at TP levels multiple times higher than those shown to cause algae blooms and their adverse impacts. Consequently, streams lose their value as recreational areas, sources of drinking water for people, livestock, and wildlife, and habitat for native aquatic species. Additionally, waterfront property values are diminished.

In October 2020, a Travis County District Court found that TCEQ violated the Clean Water Act and State law and regulations by allowing levels of TP that degrade water quality. This bill could prevent many such discharges from ever being permitted and obviate the need for expensive legal fights by landowners to protect the use and enjoyment of their property.

Moreover, alternatives to direct discharge readily exist. Land application and reuse of treated wastewater are well-established methods to dispose of wastewater without polluting our beloved waterways, when properly implemented. Communities in the Highland Lakes area have grown exponentially using these alternatives.

Thank you.

James Rice
Self- Welder
WACO, TX

The streams and rivers of the Hill Country are the crown jewels of Texas. Please, defend them for future generations to enjoy.

William Bunch
self, attorney
Austin, TX

Dear Committee Members,

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Please vote in favor of Rep. King's HB 4146 "pristine rivers" bill. The high quality, low nutrient rivers and creeks should be protected for their natural, wildlife, scenic and economic values as pristine streams. For decades cities, special utility districts, and private developers have demonstrated that municipal wastewater can be readily managed and reused without discharging to and ruining our state's pristine streams. A fairly recent move to target pristine streams with municipal discharges should be stopped promptly, before its too late. Representative King's bill will do that to a significant degree.

These high water quality streams are loved and cherished by all Texans, and essential for protecting our native wildlife and the recreation economies that depend on these clean streams for their survival. Please support the passage of HB 4146 out of committee today.

Thank you,

Bill Bunch
Austin, Texas (formerly of Arlington and San Antonio)

beth mcconnell
The Polo Club at Rooster Springs
Austin, TX

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Thank you.

Christy Muse
Self contract consultant
Spicewood, TX

Thank you for considering this important issue. I strongly support this legislation. For 18 years I have worked in conservation and

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natural resource protection in the Texas Hill Country region. This is an essential piece of legislature for the long-term health of our region. Thank you Representative King!

Margaret Russell

none

Austin, TX

I have worked in science education at multiple informal sites in Texas, and invariably the richness of the ecology of headwater springs and spring fed rivers are high in diversity and provide Texans and visitors with undeniable quality of life experiences. Once we lose it, we won't regain it. From the homes being built along the Frio River, it is clear that discharge is increasing, with impact by algae growth choking the shallow streams in slow flows during our many droughts. There is never a good reason to pollute a natural resource that lands at your neighbor's front door.

michael Racis

the polo club at rooster springs

Austin, TX

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Thank you.

K. B.

self healthcare

dripping springs, TX

HB 4146 by T. King

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Our waterways are our communities' lifeline and support the economy of our towns and cities. It is what draws e-commerce to our area. Citizens, as well as businesses as well as those that rely on the pristine waters of our tributaries, creeks and rivers. Highly treated wastewater and pollutant effluent change the pH, ammonia levels, phosphates, nitrates and nitrites causing oxygen choking vegetation and loss of natural occurring wildlife. This then filters into the aquifers.

We are starting to see the effects of treated effluent that are currently allowed to be dumped into our creeks and rivers. There needs to be better regulations and restrictions to stop and reverse some of the damage that had already started.

HB 4146 is a step in the right direction.

Dick Kallerman

Save Barton Creek Association

Austin, TX

Strongly support HB 4146. The value of clear Hill Country streams is priceless. Tampering with their quality is irresponsible. I enjoy relaxing in Barton Creek and the Edwards Aquifer outflow. Their loss would seriously damage Austin's quality of life.

katherine romans

Hill Country Alliance

Dripping Springs, TX

April 12, 2021

Dear Chairman Brooks and Members of the House Committee on Environmental Regulations,

The Hill Country Alliance (HCA) and its supporters recognize and appreciate the critical work that the House Committee on Environmental Regulations plays in shaping and advancing proposed legislation that impacts the water supplies of Texas. We are writing today to express our strong support for the Committee Substitute for HB4146 (King), which is being considered by the committee today.

The waters of the creeks and rivers of the Texas Hill Country are among the most pristine in the entire state. The thirteen rivers with their headwaters in this region sustain lives and livelihoods from the rural hinterlands, through some of the fastest growing counties in the country, all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. Our economic vitality and way of life depends on the health of these surface waters.

And yet, as growth comes to our region, we are seeing more applications to discharge treated wastewater into those very streams and rivers. As of 2018, there were permit applications to dump more than 2.1 billion gallons of treated wastewater per year into the pristine waters of the Hill Country. Even when treated to the highest standards, treated wastewater includes levels of phosphorus and nitrogen higher than the base levels in those receiving creeks and rivers. Those discharge permits present an immediate threat to the health of those ecosystems, and the economies that depend on them.

HB 4146 represents a simple and elegant solution to an entrenched challenge facing our region. By banning discharge permits into those 'pristine' rivers of the state, we can avoid the costly and time consuming contested case process that occurs each time a new permit is proposed in the Hill Country. We can protect those water resources and all of the associated value they provide to our state. We commend Chairman King for his work introducing this legislation, and working with the TCEQ to address their questions about its implementation.

The Hill Country Alliance works across a 17-county region of central Texas. Our mission is to grow an ever-expanding alliance of groups, landowners, individuals and entities working to preserve and protect the region's water, land, night skies, and communities. We are grateful for the leadership of the House Natural Resources Committee, and would welcome any questions about this testimony.

Sincerely,

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Katherine Romans
Executive Director
Hill Country Alliance

Ken Gray
Self
Austin, TX

I have invested most of my life into enjoying and sharing the Llano River with friends, families, kids, pets, and paying guests. We swim and fish in the Llano like it's the best kept secret in Texas. Along with Big Bend & other jewels, it's why I'm proud to be a Texan. Please protect our rivers. We are nothing without clean waterways and air. Please

Lonnie Childs
self
Fredericksburg, TX

I support HB 4146 to protect our pristine streams. There are alternatives to wastewater discharge into streams. We must protect these valuable natural assets and the lands that surround them. The degradation of streams also affects land values and ecotourism revenues. Once you allow discharge and its resultant pollution, you cannot recover these pristine waters.

Sophia Perez
Self
League City, TX

I have a passion for clear rivers and in favor of HB 4146 as a native Texan. Please help conserve this for our future generations.
Sophia Perez

Janette Couch
self
BOERNE, TX

Please pass HB 4146 so that the few pristine waterways or sections of waterways that remain are protected. Not allowing discharges into these waterways is critical to protecting natural waterways.

Robert Toegm
Self, previously a wetland biology researcher
Austin, TX

Please, please support the banning of wastewater being carelessly dumped into our waterways.

I am a former wetland research biologist and a landowner in Hays and Blanco counties with property on the Blanco River. We have seen extreme changes in our water quality on in of the most pristine stretches of the Blanco River this year after the town of Blanco began dumping high nutrient load treatment plant effluent into the River due to their failure to re- secure their local contracts for better methods of disposal of their effluent.

Water on our ranch and on those of our neighbors that has always previously been crystal clear and healthy now has a high nutrient-load and has gone eutrophic, with single cell algal blooms even in early spring, which is entirely new. We are seeing only-black oxygen-less kill zones develop as large as 15 feet deep due to the excess nutrients, and they leave the river bottom

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scarred and lifeless, again something we've never seen before.

Similar eutrophication changes happened long ago on Barton Creek near my residential home in Austin, and the water quality there keeps getting worse each time an upstream entity applies for and gets permission to dump effluent into tributaries of it as well.

This affects us all in Central Texas. Let's not be short-sighted fools who trash our best recreational, environmental, and aesthetic treasures, solely so a few entities can take shortcuts to save small margins on treating the water they have used.

Daniele Caddell

Self

Sherman, TX

I comment in favor is this bill!! Texas is such a beautiful natural wonder. It's one of the things that keeps us great!! Please keep out waterways clean and keep Texas beautiful!

Judith Breidenbach

Self retired

Spicewood, TX

Please pass this bill! We've got to minimize pollution in our beautiful rivers!

Robert Eby

Self - Green Building Specialist

San Marcos, TX

I SUPPORT this bill.

Athena Houghtaling

Hill Country Alliance

Spring Branch, TX

Keep wastewater out of the last pristine streams in Texas. Please support SB-1747 in order to:

- _Protect the unique natural resources that Texans have enjoyed for generations
- _Protect the local economies of rural communities
- _Protect the property values of private lands in Texas
- _Protect the plants and wildlife that depend on stable and healthy aquatic ecosystems

William Martin, Mr.

Myself

Austin, TX

1. I built a beautiful house about 30 years ago along a pristine stream called Long Branch Creek in western Travis County. My wife and I cashed in our retirement accounts, paid the penalty and used the money for a down payment to purchase the land and to build the house designed with views of the creek and a waterfall in over half of the rooms. Now, a businessman from Houston has applied to build a package treatment plant that water quality specialist have run through a model that predicted major algae growth in the Blanco River when the City of Blanco started discharging effluent and, shortly after discharge began, ugly huge algae blooms appeared. Later, when the City switched to land disposal, the algae disappeared, which clearly shows that the algae was the result of effluent discharge. The data show our creek is next to die if TCEQ issues a permit to this permittee.

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Water Quality specialists have collected water from Long Branch Creek, analyzed the water and entered the data into a regionally targeted model that was created using data recovered from other Hill Country streams, some of which that have had effluent discharged into them. This model that shows that a dramatic increase in algae will occur within Long Branch, which is currently a pristine stream with almost no algae. These conclusions are based on data. TCEQ permit reviewers did not take samples or use anything other than a generic model to evaluate the outcome, so their conclusions that water quality will not be affected are based more on speculation than facts. Please protect our beautiful creek and all others in the Hill Country.

Joni Rogers

ROGERS

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

Bobby Levinski

Self, Attorney

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146. Clean creeks and rivers are necessary for the health of Texans and our environment.

Laurel Martin

Self / Retired TCEQ Federal Water Grants Manager

Austin, TX

Back in 1988, I found this gorgeous piece of property along and accessible to the beautiful and pristine Long Branch Creek in western Travis County. My husband and I had just moved to the Austin area and had very little in our bank account. We fell in love with this property and the creek, so we cashed out our retirement accounts and scrimped and saved to buy one lot at a time for a total of about 6½ acres. We set aside roughly 5½ acres of forested land along the creek to serve as a wildlife sanctuary. Across the creek was a 33-acre tract of forested land, and little development had occurred on several hundred acres surrounding us. Through the years, we have seen a mountain lion, bobcat, wild turkeys, skunks, porcupine, quail, horned toad lizard, golden-cheeked warbler, coyote, white-tail deer, grey fox, red fox, ringtail cat, an endangered Mexican milk snake, painted bunting, crawfish, hummingbirds, very large and small turtles, and a vast variety of fish and birds. This is a beautiful area teeming with wildlife. Before we even built our dream home 29 years ago, we were spending weekends on the property to swim in the crystal clear waters while we carefully cleared the site. The creek was the primary reason we chose this property, and we have albums of photos showing that Long Branch Creek has been enjoyed by multiple generations of family and friends over the three decades we have been its “care takers.” Our home was designed to use rainwater collected from the metal roof to avoid depleting the Edward’s Aquifer, and our family of four has never purchased supplemental water. Now that I am retired from my Federal Water Grants Manager career with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), my favorite pastime is watching all the various flora and fauna about the property, particularly along the creek. My husband swims in the creek up to three times daily when the intermittent creek is flowing. We just spent \$15,000 to rebuild a multilevel deck and stairs leading down to the creek bed, for this property is a legacy we plan to leave for our sons. I support HB 4146 as it relates to a restriction on permits authorizing direct discharges of waste or pollutants into water in certain stream segments or assessment units. Without such protection, there might be a day soon when it would no longer be safe to swim or enjoy the creek due to effluent and the inevitable increased and dangerous algae build-up that would result. Please don’t let discharge threats take away our paradise! It will no longer be aesthetically pleasing to even look at and will cause harm to the magnificent flora and fauna we enjoy here. Respectfully yours, - Laurel Sloat Martin

Justine Salsbury

Self

Austin, TX

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Protect the unique natural resources that Texans have enjoyed for generations
Protect the local economies of rural communities
Protect the property values of private lands in Texas
Protect the plants and wildlife that depend on stable and healthy aquatic ecosystems

Reuben Loeffler

Reuben Loeffler

Martindale, TX

I have seen what wastewater did to Lake LBJ when Kingsland began discharging in to the Colorado River, and it's not good. Our place on LBJ was below the discharge, and we began to get a very nasty mossy/algae growth that almost destroyed the water around our dock. This is not good for our rivers.

Catherine Moats

Hill Country Alliance

Austin, TX

Please keep wastewater out of streams and our precious water resources. It is heart breaking to think of the detrimental affects it will have on our health, our children's health, our land, our aquatic system and the algal blooms, fish kills it will create in addition to the interruption to our much loved recreational uses, and ultimately it will degrade many of our natural resources as well as rural economies. As a long time Austin resident and lover of our land please help us protect our environment and keep the wastewater out.

william tucker

self / artist

austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146 !!

Karen Kocher

self-associate professor of practice

Austin, TX

I am in support of this bill HR 4146 to restrict the discharge of treated sewage effluent into our Texas river and streams. The direct discharge method of dealing with sewage effluent is not sustainable if we want to maintain our uniquely beautiful and swimmable waterways that make living here special. The metaphor of death by a thousand cuts is becoming a reality as our cities grow out into the countryside without adequate environmental protections.

According to a recent report:

- 81% of all sewage discharge plants in the Hill Country have exceeded at least one of their pollutant limits since 2017.
- The average for all plants was 8.6 exceedances, and 188 days with exceedances, for the past three-and-a-half years.
- High levels of ammonia nitrogen and oxygen depletion, which can harm fish and other aquatic life, accounted for 49% of all exceedances. E. coli bacteria accounted for 25% of exceedances. The presence of E. coli is a sign that other fecal pathogens are present in water too.

The current rules are clearly not working. Before we lose what makes our beautiful countryside beautiful, I urge you to pass this bill that will insure greater protections for future generations.

Jonathan Grant

Self/retired

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San Marcos, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

LINDA BOHLS

self ret. >ranching in Medina Co/ trying to preserve our Hill Country for future generations

Boerne, TX

Restrict ? No- PROHIBIT ! Dumping discharge into our rivers and streams in the Texas Hill Country should not be permitted. Should not be considered. Should be absolutely prohibited as a violation of common sense! Why would anyone think it okay to do this? Especially when there is an option for ZERO DISCHARGE by using the grey water for irrigation. God knows, we need water on our dry, drought plagued land and using the treated wastewater for irrigation is logical and wise, whereas dumping into our waterways is polluting! These streams and creeks and rivers are headwaters that flow into aquifers that provide drinking water. They are part of an ecological system on which wildlife depend. PEOPLE consume the water; wanna' drink mister? God gave us our beautiful hill country. God wants us to love our neighbor. God wants us to preserve the precious moisture He provides. And Dear Lord, please send rain.

Annabell McNew

Texas Hill Country River Region

CONCAN, TX

I'm writing to you today to ask for your support for HB-4146, on behalf of Texas Hill Country River Region, Inc., the local economies of many rural communities, and the last pristine rivers in Texas, including the Frio, Nueces, and Sabinal Rivers in Uvalde County. This bill, relating to a restriction on permits authorizing direct discharges of waste or pollutants into water in certain stream segments or assessment units, authored by Representative King, has been referred to the House Committee on Environmental Regulation. I hope to have the opportunity to testify before you in support of this bill and would appreciate your consideration and support.

HB 4146 deserves your support, in order to:

Protect the unique natural resources that Texans have enjoyed for generations, Protect the local economies of rural communities, Protect the property values of private lands in Texas, Protect the plants and wildlife that depend on stable and healthy aquatic ecosystems

The most pristine streams, meeting the highest level of purity, require unique protections to ensure the health of the aquatic ecosystems and the local economies of many rural communities that depend on them.

Fair and balanced regulation prevents wastewater discharge when reasonable and viable alternatives exist—and protects Texas' last pristine streams.

Streams like those in the Nueces headwaters contain almost no Total Phosphorus and they are hypersensitive to its addition. The absence of Phosphorus is an indicator of pristine water quality. Clear sparkling streams with pristine water quality are the cornerstone of local tourism economies and key to continued healthy aquatic systems.

TCEQ currently has no clear means of denying permit applications that would discharge wastewater into pristine streams like those in the Nueces Headwaters, including the Frio River. The proposed legislation will prohibit TCEQ from issuing new and amended discharge permits to the identified pristine streams. This legislation would help TCEQ help Texas.

In addition to the detrimental effect on the health of the aquatic systems, these permits come at a great cost to Texas. Without this legislation, private landowners must organize at great personal expense, to contest each individual discharge permit application, in order to protect water quality in their creeks and rivers, as well as the value of their properties. Even the best-treated wastewater contains phosphorus and other nutrients in far higher concentrations than has existed in these pristine waters, and if wastewater is discharged to them it will result in algal blooms, fish kills, interrupt recreational use, and ultimately degrade many of our natural resources as well as rural economies. I appreciate your consideration and ultimately hope to count on your support

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to protect the 1% of pristine streams in Texas that provide so much enjoyment and economic impact for the people and the future of our great state.

Elaine Magruder

Self

Midland,, TX

I am in agreement that there should be no discharge of waste or pollutants into Texas Rivers, Streams, Springs or other pristine waterways.

James Mickey

Devils River

San Antonio, TX

Plz keep our rivers clean and prohibit wastewater from entering these pristine natural rivers

George Cofer

Self

Austin, TX

Thank you! This legislation as you know is critically important to the health of Texas waters. George Cofer, Annandale Ranch (Uvalde County), Frio River.

Desiree Schmidt

self, Cybersecurity Sales

Georgetown, TX

I am a resident of the Water Oak Community which is nestled on the banks of the San Gabriel River in Georgetown. I cannot tell you how sickening it is to see our beautiful natural resources be polluted by the Liberty Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant located upstream from us. It's especially disheartening to see how many violations that the treatment plant has had over the years that appear to be a complete disregard for Leander and Georgetown residents. I am fearful for what damage has already been done to this waterway and others like it and realize that we need this bill to protect what makes our state so beautiful.

Tyson Schmidt

Self, Business Owner

Georgetown, TX

I was raised in Georgetown, moved away for a short period of time, and have returned to raise my own family. It is disgusting to see the sludge from the Liberty Hill Treatment plant transform the San Gabriel river. Please pass this bill to save it.

Donald Simanton

Self, Engineer

Dripping Springs, TX

Every year more of our pristine Hill Country streams get more polluted by unregulated development. This bill would help save some streams and keep Texas wild.

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Cheryl Hamilton, Dr.
Self, Retired senior citizen
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Alan Montemayor, Mr.
Self, Retired senior citizen
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Miller
Self
Austin, TX

Please support HB 4146 to protect the water quality in pristine streams.

Thank you for considering this input.

Juliana. Crouch
Self
NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

Refer bill to House
For

Vital to preserve our water supply.
Vital for health of living things, including your citizens.

Alice Strunk
self as owner of the Hudspeth River Ranch where the headwaters of the Devils River are located.
San Antonio, TX

Strongly in favor of HB 4146 to protect our pristine rivers from having waste or pollutants discharged into the rivers which greatly affects water quality. Thank you.

Kathy Rhoads
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am wholeheartedly in favor of protecting one of our most important rivers-the Devils River. If passed, this law would prohibit wastewater discharge into our few remaining pristine rivers and creeks specifically, the Devils River.

John Adams
Texas Trophy Catfish Association

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Highlands, TX

It is vitally important that we protect the few remaining pristine waters in our state.

Marvin Miller

self

Spring Branch, TX

I absolutely support this legislation to take an important step to protect our pristine waterways and the species they support. There is tremendous pressure from development but there are many areas available for development that do not threaten these areas. We need to protect the places that matter.

Beverly Iverson

Self

Houston, TX

Please protect our rivers from wastewater discharge. The Devils River is the last pristine river in our state. We must do everything we can to protect the remaining rivers and creeks of Texas.

Kyle Mack

Land owner along Long Branch Creek

Austin, TX

I support this bill that puts restrictions on permits authorizing direct discharges of waste or pollutants into water in certain stream segments or assessment units. We are in a situation now with a possible permit passing to allow a Houston developer that owns 5 acres off of the 290 to discharge 45,000 gallons a day into Long Branch Creek. The creek is on my property and my children swim in this creek. I don't see how one person can get a permit that effects so many other land owners and their property. The TCEQ is going to allow or deny the permit. We need legislation that protects our pristine waterways in Central Texas. No one should be allowed to have direct discharge of waste or pollutants into our waterways. I say our as we the people need to take care of our natural resources.

Thank you for your time.

Elaine Wardlaw, Rancher Landowner near Devils River

Self

Del Rio, TX

Myself and my entire family is in favor of this bill to preserve our pristine rivers. Our ranch is located on Dolan Creek Road approximately 12 miles from Devils River. It is a vital part of our county and treasured by so many!! We are fifth generation ranchers and here to stay!! Thank you

Janette Couch

self

BOERNE, TX

I support keeping phosphorus out of Texas creeks and streams to maintain the clear natural state of streams. I support HB 4146, a bill which would provide a means to protect some streams and keep them as a intact natural resource that is essential for the ecosystem and for the enjoyment of Texans. Phosphorus causes algal and other issues, negatively affected the appearance and ecosystem of the stream. Water is a limited and high value commodity in much of Texas. Our surface water needs to be protected.

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Carol Schlachter
Mr. and Mrs.
Johnson City, TX

We need this protection for the beautiful Texas Hill Country. The new subdivisions and Municipal utility districts are moving out here faster than ever. Please help us protect our Water Resources!

Jason Nix
Nix River Ranch
Dallas, TX

Please pass HB 4146 for the protection of our pristine and beautifully natural rivers. I want my great grandchildren to have the opportunity to enjoy Gods amazing creations without the worry of pollutants such as wastewater discharge. We must stop these assaults on this great state's incredible natural resources.

Ivy Oliver
self
Austin, TX

We are directly affected by the waste permits that would dump pollutants into our water and strongly oppose this. Please prohibit the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality from authorizing direct discharge of waste or pollutants into them. Keep our streams pristine, clear, and natural. Not only will permits to dump sewage discharge affect water quality but its my understanding it also could increase flow, in turn causing more flood issues for the flood plain we live in currently.

Mason Jones
Self
Georgetown, TX

We have very few pristine rivers in Texas, the few we do have left I'd like to keep that way. I am in favor of HB 4146

Kevin Smith
self, consultant
Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146. Our streams are an invaluable resource for all Texas residents!

Pearce Barry
self, manager
Cedar Park, TX

It's important we preserve the beautiful natural resources of our great State of Texas.

Ellen Berman
self / retired
Wimberley, TX

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I support passage of HB 4146.

Wolfgang Frey, Ph.D.

self

Austin, TX

I strongly support passage of HB 4146

Caitlin Beer

self

Houston, TX

so we have so few pristine rivers and creeks left in Texas! i believe we need to preserve this wild place. i vote in favor of this bill!

Jensie Madden

Self- Retired Educator

Fischer, TX

Please SUPPORT HB 4146. Growth in the Hill Country is resulting in many new subdivisions being built with central sewage systems that discharge into nearby creeks and streams. The additional phosphorus that is allowed under TCEQ regs cannot be handled in the pristine Hill Country streams that have evolved over eons. These precious waterways and the plants and animals that have also evolved to live in their unique ecosystem are under threat from the multiple new discharges being allowed. Please save our Hill Country streams and their unique habitats.

Erik Andersen

self; salesperson

Austin, TX

I support HB 4146 and the effort to keep our clean waters clean. As we learned from the February Texas storms, clean water is precious and essential for life.

Patti Edelman, Citizen

Self

Austin, TX

I support restrictions on discharge of waste and anything that will pollute our precious water. As a mother and grandmother, I want my children, grandchildren and generations to be able to drink safe, clean water which sustains life on our planet.

Joel Lorenz

Self

Houston, TX

It's important for us to protect our most pristine natural environments, for future generations.

Deborah Rothschild

Sos

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DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX

I support HB4146. We cannot be polluting our water. It is too precious and must be protected.

Hal Strickland

Parent/concerned citizen

Austin, TX

No wastewater discharges onto Texas stream flows

James Talbot

self, owner of Neverland Designs

Austin, TX

Please pass HB 4146 and protect the future of our precious waterways.

Mark Gottschall

Self

San Marcos, TX

“I support passage of HB 4146”

Wesley Wilson, Mr.

Devils River Conservancy

Dallas, TX

I support House Bill CS4146. Let's keep Texas natural beautiful.

.Doug Wierman

self

Dripping Springs, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Mei Ling Isaacs

Self/ SAHM

Austin, TX

Please support limits on wastewater being dumped into our waterways. Clean water is one of our most important resources and we need to look to the future of how important water will be. Dumping waste water even treated in streams and waterways is incredibly short sided and will cause issues in many different areas including both health and loss of tourist dollars beyond that clean water is going to become a limited resource.

Larry Begnaud

Self

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Austin, TX

As an Austin citizen for the past 30 years, my family has been enjoying our greenbelts, rivers, creeks, and streams. These waterways play a large part in making this area unique and so popular when compared to other cities in the country. Please enact laws that protect the purity of the waters so we and others can enjoy them for many generations to come. Not many cities have waters that are safe to swim in. Thank you.

Ben Cukerbaum

Self, lawyer

AUSTIN, TX

Please pass this bill.

Patricia Seeger

self

Austin, TX

I support HB 4146

Roland Burke, Mr.

Home

Buda, TX

It is so important to make sure our waterways are kept pollutant free. Without clean water we will all be in trouble

adrian montoya

Self

Austin, TX

Please fight for this bill. We need to keep our waterways free of pollution. Thank you for being a champion of this worthy cause.

Jyl Kutsche

Save Our Springs Alliance

The Woodlands, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

Cynthia Putnam

self--retired

Austin, TX

I am in full support of HB 4146. Texas springs, creeks and waterways are completely unique and a treasure to our state. Protecting them is very high priority for the value of Texas

Daisy Clark

Self

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Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Al Giles

Self

Austin, TX

Please pass this much needed legislation.

Jean Hopkins

Self, retired

Austin, TX

Central Texas is blessed with clean water resources. I believe they should be protected from pollution for the public good

Daniel Llanes

self

Austin, TX

Please support HB 4146 and help keep our existing clean waterways clean.

Irene Shoghi

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly support HB 4146 for the sake of our community!

Jacob Hendrickson

Self, science teacher

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146. As a life long Austin resident I and a son of a biologist, I grew up frequenting Texas creeks. I've seen what happens to creeks with development and discharge and now a father myself, want to see our waterways protected for her to explore and enjoy. We're currently building a home in San Marcos and a big part of the appeal was being able to walk to the river to swim and play, as well as being close to exploring all the nearby hill country creeks and rivers. I would hate to see the appeal of these resources unnecessarily lost.

Kara Shaw

Self

Driftwood, TX

I support the passage of HB 4146

Bill Holt

self

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Austin, TX

Many Hill Country streams contain almost no Total Phosphorus. Low levels of phosphorus indicate pristine water quality and are key to continued healthy aquatic systems, recreational water use, and tourism economies. This legislation would prohibit the State from issuing permits to discharge wastewater effluent directly into qualifying pristine waterways. Across Texas about 43 streams would be protected from discharge by the proposed legislation.

Cathy Ramsey

self; retired

Dripping Springs, TX

This is so important and so needed; we are in danger of causing vast and irreparable damage to the exquisitely clean and clear waterways that make central Texas so special. They are fragile, without the filtration capacity that may be adequate to balance human uses in other parts of the state. Please protect them for future generations, for wildlife, and for the sheer joy of beauty.

Terrence Dougherty, Homeowner

River ledge Estates

Wimberley, TX

Please pass this bill to keep the Blanco river clean!

Pete Trachy

Self Nurse

Austin, TX

I support this bill.

Don Young, Mr.

Self - digital marketing

Georgetown, TX

I support the passage of HB 4146.

Elaine Byrne, Mrs.

self, real estate broker

Austin, TX

Please keep our most basic resource - water - pure and animal friendly. Besides us humans, wildlife depend on clean, fresh water, too.

Susan Cook

self

Driftwood, TX

I support HB 4146, as this is our opportunity to stop the pollution of our pristine Hill Country streams, rivers and springs...and our aquifers.

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There are countless other ways to deal with the waste products of homes and businesses rather than the outdated and unwise discharge of human sewage, however "treated," into our waterways, and eventually our aquifers.

The practice of putting wastewater into any waterway, but especially those not currently polluted, should be illegal, not "permitted," not allowed under any circumstances. And if someone does this, they should face severe penalties, and be required to remediate the damage immediately, and thoroughly.

The continued health and prosperity of Texas depends on a healthy environment, and this begins with respect for our natural environment.

The State of Texas should lead in this endeavor, and not allow any degradation of a waterway or aquifer, none whatsoever. None should be "permitted" by permit, nor allowed as a development plan. If someone cannot "develop" their property without damaging the environment, then that development should be disallowed on its face.

No more pollution. No more destruction of our natural world. No more greed wrapped in the guise of "development." Protect our water. All of it.

Thank you for your consideration, and help me help protect Texas water.

David Race

Self

Austin, TX

Vote yes on HB4146.

Quality of life is one of the primary drivers of Austin's economic growth. The Pristine Streams Bill goes a long way towards insuring that environment quality, and thus quality of life and economic growth is maintained.

I urge you to vote YES on this bill.

Respectfully,

David Race

Darrel Mayers

self: music teacher

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Gary Seeger

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly support passage of HB 4146.

Caren Floyd

Self.

Austin, TX

Please support HB4146

Scott Gilman

Self, Online Fundraising Director

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Joyce Cook

self, retired

Austin, TX

I support HB 4146. I oppose discharging waste or pollutants in Austin's creeks and springs.

Ed Crowell

self

Austin, TX

Without our clear-running streams, creeks and rivers, Texas would be a wasteland. I don't want to live where governments knowingly dump waste and pollutants into these waters. I support this bill to stop the practice now.

Margaret Schulenberg

self/retired

ROUND ROCK, TX

Clean water is essential for life.

Pass H.B. 4146.

Gioconda Bellonci

Self

Austin, TX

"I support passage of HB 4146"

As a regular swimmer in our own Barton Springs I have a passion, great respect and appreciation for keeping our streams and waterways pristine.

Again, "I support passage of HB 4146"

Thank you.

Dixie Camp

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

I support the passage of HB 4146

Bill Gould, Mr.

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my self.

Elgin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Michael Aulick, Mr.

Self, city planner

Driftwood, TX

I strongly support this legislation. We must protect our water.

Harry Miller 3, Dr

Self

Austn, TX

Discharge of any treated water from waist water treatment plants should not be allowed into our creeks and rivers as it still brings in pollutants like phosphates and nitrogen that allow for algae blooms and low oxygen levels. This causes fish die offs, low clarity and large mats of algae!

Use treated water for lawns and parks instead.

Susan Pascoe

Resident

Austin, TX

I support HB 4146

Sarah Simpson

Self

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

MaryRoss Taylor

Self/retired

Houston, TX

I support HB 4146 and respectfully ask you to support it

patricia Nettleship

self - retired

Austin, TX

The glory of Texas is upheld in its many rivers, creeks, lakes and ponds. Please keep them unpolluted as we face severity of climate change diminishing their quantity. Let's not add to that by diminishing their quality.

Terrence Cowan, Mr

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self

Sunset Valley, TX

I support passage of HB 4146. Pristine waters have high human, environmental and economic value. Developers and municipalities have alternative ways to handle water waster other than dumping into Texas streams. Our pristine waterways provide for many jobs through tourism. Many community businesses depend on visitors spending their dollars and it generates sales tax dollars for our State. Pristine streams are a Texas legacy that we should protect for our children.

Abbe W Delozier

Myself

Austin, TX

I fully support this bill. WE must protect our drinking water!!!

Cynthia Symington, Ms

self - retired

Austin, TX

I strongly support this Bill restricting permits that allow any waste or pollutants into our creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes.

Ann Thomason

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB 4146

Leigh Ziegler, DR (OPTOMETRIST)

Self

Austin, TX

Please support this bill to protect the streams which currently contribute to the health and welfare of Austinites and need to be retained for that purpose and not only to preserve the beauty but also water quality in this challenged ecology.

Rainbow Di Benedetto

Self, Principal Software Developer/Analyst

Austin, TX

HR 4146 is a needed bill. Please pass it.

Nico Hauwert, Dr

self

Austin, TX

Ww treatment does not meet drinking standards as evidenced in part by many violations reported by TCEQ. This is in a state that relies heavily on self reporting. In Ohio the state EPA verifies discharges with independent assessments. Just recall the Georgetown pathogenic outbreak of 1981 and Braun Station San Antonio 1986 outbreak to see what happens when you rely on

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natural treatment.

Joseph Rich
self - self employed
Manor, TX

I support passage of HB 4146. Please keep the water ways we all love clean. Living here would never be the same if places like Barton Springs were no longer able to be used due to disgusting waste water and pollutants.

DAN SPENCE
Self
Austin, TX

I support passage of House Bill 4146. There are many pristine streams that need to be protected.

Anthony Barron
Retired self
Georgetown, TX

Clean water is a necessity for physical and mental health. Strive to improve our water quality at every opportunity.

Sarah Jenkins, Ms.
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote for this bill to maintain the natural state of Texas gems like the Devil's River

Catherine Simpton
Save Our Springs Alliance
Fischer, TX

Please keep our streams and rivers clean, beautiful, and pollution free!

Raul Gonzalez, Mr.
Self : Security
Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

James McNabb
Homeowner
Austin, TX

Please pass this bill. It is essential for continued clean water for the Edwards Aquifer and others.

Cindy Goldman
9713 Derecho Drive
Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146. This is essential to protecting our precious aquifer and water supplies.

kristin turcotte, President
Driftwood Retreat and Ranch
Austin, TX

I support HB4146! We need to protect our rivers and streams.

Elizabeth Bowerman, Ms
Comal County Conservation Alliance
New Braunfels, TX

On behalf of the Board and members of the Comal County Conservation Alliance, I enthusiastically support HB 4146.

David Todd
Self
Austin, TX

As someone who has enjoyed visiting, floating, and fishing in many Hill Country streams, I think it is essential that their water quality be protection. HB 4146 would be a key step towards that goal.

Susan Dore
Save Our Springs
Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

Susan Raybuck
Self. Retired.
Wimberley, TX

I support passage of HB 4146 and urge all committee members to support it. Please vote to prohibit wastewater discharge into our most pristine rivers and creeks across Texas, including those that recharge the Edwards Aquifer, so we have healthy, clean drinking water. Contaminants harm us, and the ill effects of consuming polluted water have a financial and health cost for all Texans, one that is often overlooked.

Vicky Moerbe
Self
Austin, TX

I support this house bill as it will help protect our valuable water.

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Sandra Fiedorek

self.artist

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

irene pickhardt

self

Austin, TX

Dear Representatives,

Please support HB 4146 so we can retain pristine rivers and segments of rivers that are not heavily polluted.

Thank you for your service.

Yvette Montalvo

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB 4146 and the protection of our water streams for the health and enjoyment of the community & environment.

Nancy Leeper

Self

Austin, TX

We love our clean rivers and waterways in Austin. Please no discharging waste or pollutants!

Donna Gottwald

Self retired dentist

Helotes, TX

I support HB 4146

Richard Byrnes, Dr

Self. CEO

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

We must preserve our water's purity.

Kathleen Jircik

Self / Architect

Austin, TX

I support HB 4146. There is no greater treasure in Texas than clean water and spring fed rivers and swimming holes.

Martha Rogers
self homemaker
Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

melissa goodrich
self, retired
West Lake Hills, TX

I speak in favor of this bill. Texas creeks lakes and rivers need protection from treated waste water. Please preserve our natural beauty for all Texans.

Philip Russell
self writer
Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146. Keep our waters clear!

Melissa d'Attilio
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB 4146 if passed, would prohibit wastewater discharge into our most pristine rivers and creeks across Texas, including those that recharge the Edwards Aquifer.

Kathleen Magor
Self Editor/Writer
Austin, TX

I support HB 4146.

Margaret Mills
Self - retired social worker
AUSTIN, TX

I support passage of HB 4146. We have to preserve the quality of water in natural streams and rivers. Discharging (even partially treated) wastewater, waste, or any other pollutants has proven to be a threat to water quality, and plants and animals of all types. We cannot reverse the damage later, so we must prevent it now.

Thank you ,
Margaret Mills

Genevieve Duncan
Save Our Springs
Austin, TX

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I support passage of HB 4146. Many Hill Country streams contain almost no Total Phosphorus. Low levels of phosphorus indicate pristine water quality and are key to continued healthy aquatic systems, recreational water use, and tourism economies. This legislation would prohibit the State from issuing permits to discharge wastewater effluent directly into qualifying pristine waterways. Across Texas about 43 streams would be protected from discharge by the proposed legislation.

Cynthia Roush

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB 4146.

Carolyn Croom, Ms.

Self, Child care

Austin, TX

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

I'm writing in support of HB 4146 for the following reasons. It would save the last pristine streams in Texas, including in the Devil's River and Nueces River basins and in the Hill Country. It would help TCEQ help Texas by prohibiting the agency from issuing new and amended wastewater discharge permits to our last pristine streams, and directing applicants, to their benefit, to use treated wastewater for beneficial reuse through land application and irrigation. Land application would conserve water, help plants, and keep phosphorus and other nutrients out of our last pure surface waters, and prevent algal blooms, fish kills, and protect recreational use, private property values, wildlife, and drinking water.

I and family members and friends live in or near the Hill Country and I grew up near the Devil's River, both regions which would be protected. About forty-three streams across Texas would be protected. For us and other Texans this would mean:

- Protecting unique natural resources for Texans to enjoy into the future
- Protecting local tourism economies of rural communities
- Protecting property values of private lands in Texas
- Protecting Texas' supply of drinking water
- Protecting wildlife and plants that depend on clean water

Do right by Texas and vote for HB 4146.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Croom

Elke Baitis

Wildflower Church

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Harris Pfeil

self, mechanical engineer

Austin, TX

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I support passage of HB 4146

Diane Spicer

Self

Wimberley, TX

I support the HB 4146.

Dennis Jistel

My family

AUSTIN, TX

I support HB 4146 for the environment.

Kathy McColl

Self

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

Gary Cook

self

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

Melanie Hickerson

self

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Matthew Rush

self

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

SANDRA PARKS

Self, retired

NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

The last of our pristine waterways are being destroyed. There must be some way to protect our water for Texans, not sacrifice it for the profit of out of area developers

Printed on: April 13, 2021 12:50 PM

jeffrey solomon

PrimeTime

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

Walter Barfield, Mr.

Self

AUSTIN, TX

I support the HB 4146 regarding the restriction on permits authorizing direct discharges of waste or pollutants in to water and certain stream segments, particularly the those in the Edwards Aquifer recharge watersheds.

Thank you.

Walter G. Barfield

Richard Lawson

Self - Financial Analyst for City of Austin Parks Department

Austin, TX

I am so enthusiastic that Texas can finally protect one of its most precious resources.... it's water!

Allowing for direct discharge of effluent into streams is arcane and not even needed. There are cost effective and environmentally effective methods, such as land applications.

As a daily swimmer in Barton Springs, and many area lakes/streams/rivers, I would like to commend Representative King, and I would like to encourage her constituents to support HB 4146.

There have been many central Texas streams irreversibly damaged because TCEQ issued status quo rulings, which were so injurious and near-sighted.

However, we can start here to keep Texas Rivers Clean!

I encourage any stakeholders to contact me regarding my experiences and thoughts, if you would like the unbiased opinion of a normal person who is reasonably demanding that my state representatives protect a resource that is irreplaceable and so very delicate.... our waters, our aquifers; our life springs!

Most Sincerely,

Richard Lawson

Amy Johnson

self

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

Kat Kawazoe

Self, Austin resident

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Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146. Our waterways are an integral part of healthy living in Texas. Having grown up in Central Texas, I know how valuable clean rivers and streams are to all life, human or otherwise.

Andrew Katsetos

Self

Austin, TX

“I support passage of HB 4146”

Robert Gilliland

Self, retired Physician

Austin, TX

I am writing in support of HB 4146. Texas rivers, streams, and creeks are the capillaries that nourish the soul of our state. They must be protected so that future generations of Texans might know why we love this land so much.

Mark Weiler

Self

Austin, TX

Please protect our waterways, discharging even treated sewage into them should not be lower.

Joan Peery

Myself

Austin, TX

Saving our waterways from dumping pollutants into them.

Timothy Peery

Signal Hill Area Alliance

Austin, TX

We support this bill and all such efforts to protect our waterways and aquifers.

Kimberly Fulton

Double K Real Estate

Uvalde, TX

I am asking for your support in keeping waste water out of our Nueces rivers. Please don't let applicants get discharge permits into the Nueces basin headwater streams. I support HB CS4246. Thank you.

David Heymann

Self, Architect

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Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146. Let's please preserve natural Texas for our grandchildren.

chrys grummert

self, caregiver

woodcreek, TX

I support this bill and ask all involved to do the same. Please work to better protect our waterways.

Mayra Wheelock

Self/ stay at home mom

Del Rio, TX

Please keep the Devil's River and other water sources clean. It is wonderful to have pristine rivers that our family can go to, knowing that the rivers have been protected from pollutants or waste.

Cynthia Clegg

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB 4146.

Garret Nick

self - landlord

Austin, TX

I can imagine few things more important to the state of Texas than protecting its most vulnerable resource... clean water. Millions of Texans and visitors to Texas come here every year specifically to enjoy our springs, creeks, rivers, and lakes. Not to mention all of the residents who rely on clean water filtering through to the aquifers to supply us with drinking water. Do you want your children and grandchildren swimming in water polluted by my feces?

Paula Tuttle

Self

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

william nadalini

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill enthusiastically

Shawn Gray

Real County

Printed on: April 13, 2021 12:50 PM

Leakey, TX

I am a County Commissioner in Real County. Our beautiful Frio River is the lifeblood of our community. We MUST do everything possible to protect all of our Texas rivers and streams and keep them beautiful and pristine. I STRONGLY support this bill.

Daniel Havrilak

Self Teacher

Dallas, TX

I support the passage of HB 4146. We love to spend as much time on and in our Texas rivers and creeks. We love to swim, float, and stand up paddle board in our precious waterways.

Jacquelyn M Goodman

self ; currently retired

Austin, TX

I strongly support passage of HB 4146, relating to a restriction on permits authorizing direct discharges of waste or pollutants into water in certain stream segments or assessment units

Myra Spector

self

Wimberley, TX

I support HB 4146. We must protect our water

Ste Kubenka

Stephen Kubenka Architects

Kingsland, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Hill Country streams contain almost no Total Phosphorus. Low levels of phosphorus indicate pristine water quality and are key to continued healthy aquatic systems, recreational water use, and tourism economies. This legislation would prohibit the State from issuing permits to discharge wastewater effluent directly into qualifying pristine waterways. Across Texas about 43 streams would be protected from discharge by the proposed legislation.

Frank Cooksey, Attorney

Self, Attorney, and Member Save Barton Creek

Austin, TX

I favor water quality standards that protect the quality of water in the Edwards Aquifer, a source of drinking water and the flow of water to Barton Springs pool in the City of Austin, a treasured spring fed pool and national, state and community asset for all to enjoy.

Jason Nunley, Mr.

self

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Round Rock, TX

DO NOT POLLUTE!

Frank Pappas

self; attorney

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Adam Butler

Self

Austin, TX

I full support this regulation based on increased pressure on critical natural resources.

Janet Fotini Margos

Self, Paralegal

CEDAR PARK, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Terrence Tull, Former Executive Director, Regional Water Quality Protection Plan for the Barton Springs Zone of the Edwards Aquifer

RWQPP

Austin, TX

As the E. D. for this regional plan regarding water quality protection in the Barton Springs Zone of the Edwards Aquifer, I can testify that the stakeholders overwhelmingly supported limiting the discharge of pollutants into streams if they in any way degraded the water quality. We know that many of the chemicals that are allowed in drinking water are NOT to be found in our streams and constitute pollution in that context. This bill must be passed if our streams and wildlife environments are to be protected.

Terrence Tull

Barbara Melder

Self - Paralegal

Austin, TX

We are indeed blessed with beautiful waters in Texas to fully enjoy and need to protect those same waters from wastewater discharges. I fully support this bill and hope you will also. Clean waters in Texas is our legacy!

Terry Walch

Self

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

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Susan McCoy, M.S.,LPC

Suzi McCoy, MS, LPC, self, Psychotherapist

Austin, TX

Please protect our city's crown jewel, Barton Springs eternal , from discharges of pollutants and wastes.

Cindy Fuqua

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this important bill to protect our rivers and Texas legacy of clean waters.

Sean Fleming

Self / Student Success Manager

Austin, TX

I am deeply committed to protecting our rivers and natural resources. Please pass this bill and keep Texas rivers healthy and beautiful!

Mary Zambrano

Save Our Springs

Manor, TX

I support HB 4146

Jason Benedict

Self

Pipe Creek, TX

Please vote yes on this bill and protect the pristine waters in the Hill Country. Thank you.

Helen Ballew, Conservation Consultant

Self

New Braunfels, TX

I write to express my very strong support for this bill and hope all members of the Environmental Regulation Committee will also. I have devoted my 35-year professional career to Hill Country conservation working to preserve land, water, and wildlife with all of the attendant benefits to human health and well being, economic and otherwise. I know well the sensitivity of our Hill Country aquifers, springs, streams, and watersheds. Granting permits to allow the discharge of treated effluent into these very sensitive and threatened water resources is a recipe for ecological disaster, destroying many of the benefits these vulnerable but all important waters provide. Not all waterways in Texas are alike and as vulnerable to pollution as those in the karst landscape of the Texas Hill Country. Please protect these sensitive waters by giving the TCEQ the authority and instruction to deny permits for such harmful actions. Thank you.

Catherine Croom, Ms.

self/retired teacher

Printed on: April 13, 2021 12:50 PM

Bulverde, TX

SUPPORT HB 4146

I'm writing in support of HB 4146 for the following reasons. It would save the last pristine streams in Texas, including in the Devil's River and Nueces River basins and in the Hill Country especially Honey Creek. It would help TCEQ help Texas by prohibiting the agency from issuing new and amended wastewater discharge permits to our last pristine streams, and directing applicants, to their benefit, to use treated wastewater for beneficial reuse through land application and irrigation. Land application would conserve water, help plants, and keep phosphorus and other nutrients out of our last pure surface waters, and prevent algal blooms, fish kills, and protect recreational use, private property values, wildlife, and drinking water.

I and family members and friends live in or near the Hill Country and I grew up near the Devil's River, both regions which would be protected. About forty-three streams across Texas would be protected. For us and other Texans this would mean:

- Protecting unique natural resources for Texans to enjoy into the future
- Protecting local tourism economies of rural communities
- Protecting property values of private lands in Texas
- Protecting Texas' supply of drinking water
- Protecting wildlife and plants that depend on clean water

Do right by Texas and vote for HB 4146.

Leigh Ann Brunson
Myself
Austin, TX

Texas needs to take better care of it's streams and rivers. It's appalling what is being done. Case in point is the San Gabriel. This can not go on.

David brunson
Self
Austin, TX

Texas need to get it's act together. Stop polluting our rivers.

Sophia Burns
Self small biz owner
Austin, TX

Please do not pollute our precious aquifer

Rhonda Lindsey
Self. Project manager
Lewisville, TX

My family (Sears) has owned property on the Sabinal River in Utopia Tx since the early 1960s. Please vote in favor of this bill. Save our pristine Texas rivers!

Beki Halpin

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self

Pflugerville, TX

Support this important bill that will keep streams and waterways healthy for the people and animals that depend on them for water. We cannot continue to treat our rivers and streams as trash dumps for chemicals, industrial waste and human waste.

Romalda Allsup

self/ retailer

Austin, TX

I support House bill 4146. Water is our most precious resource, keeping it clean is necessary for continued life. Please vote for HB4146.

sue january

self - retired

Round Rock, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

Jeri Lynn Ingram

self - jewelry designer

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146! Thank you.

Luke Dunlap

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly support this bill and can't believe no such law already exists.

James Tai, MD.

self/Physician

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Rick Bertino

WVWA - in agreement

Wimberley, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

Mikaela Thomas

Self

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Austin, TX

Please support HB 4146. Our rivers and creeks are part of the soul of Texas and protecting them for current and future generations should be a top priority of our government. "Don't mess with Texas" isn't only for highways.

Sarah Larocca

Self

Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146 !

Gerry Schwartz

na

austin, TX

HB4146 - to keep our clean water clean.... clean water is a TREASURE. We MUST do better.

Jada Jo Smith

Self

Vanderpool, TX

Good day,
Hope this finds you and your family healthy and well!

Speaking of family, it is so important to mine that you Vote YES in support of HB 4146! I'm a native Texan and 5th generation landowner in this beautiful state! Our family owns property on the pristine Sabinal river, one of the last remaining untouched, unpolluted sections of river in the ENTIRE state of Texas. These rivers (Sabinal, Frio, Nueces and Devils) are in danger of being polluted by wastewater plants making their way out as development creeps into these very rural areas. We must not let this become the new normal for Texas, we must not let every river/creek become polluted and we MUST WORK to save them for generations to come.

Please, vote YES to support this bill and help us save our land, our rivers and our livelihood!

95% of our income and of our neighbors comes from eco-tourism. People from all around the world come to enjoy the beauty, the Texas hills and the CRYSTAL CLEAR rivers. If we don't do something now to help prevent wastewater being dumped into the river our future will definitely be affected negatively.

Recently a camp has applied with TCEQ to discharge 60,000 gallons a day of treated wastewater into the Longhollow Creek/Sabinal River. This is insane! Our river fluctuates flow during the year and we've been experiencing extreme droughts, this would create a perfect storm for nitrogen, phosphorus and microscopic traces of pharmaceuticals to cause algae to overtake our river. If the pristine beauty is gone: business suffers, aquatic life suffers, the riparian ecosystem suffers, property values suffer and all of the local community suffers.

My expertise and career for the 16 years has been in land sales. I'm a real estate broker and owner of a boutique brokerage. The properties I sell in the area of these rivers is 100% for recreation/investment. This year we've seen a huge increase in rural and riverfront property sales. Most all of my clients and other brokers in the area are purchasing property for income generation ie: Airbnb vacation rentals. This is HUGE!

What would this do to the property values and resale values if the river is polluted?
Would we all get property tax breaks when the river is no longer attractive?
Would the county continue to charge high dollar tax rates even though our businesses are suffering?

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Would the state of Texas lower their tax revenue rate for vacation rentals to make up for the lost income?
Wouldn't that diminish the budget surplus the state continues to have?

There are too many what if's and negative consequences if we don't take action now!

Please think of the future Texas we want to have, you want to have. Our children's legacy.
Once it's gone, once it's polluted, we can NEVER get it back!

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my email, my voice, the voice of my children and ancestors. PLEASE VOTE YES
FOR HB 4146!

Sincerely,
Jada Jo Laxson Smith

James Doyle
retired/self
Canyon Lake, TX

I support the proposed bill HB 4146. Streams and rivers in the Texas Hill Country are highly sensitive to pollution from phosphorus input, and this bill should help to protect both aquatic habitats and the health of citizens living in the area.

Marsjha Hughes
seld consultant
Leakey, TX

Please protect our pristine hill country rivers from wastewater discharge!

Celeste Lacy
Freshwater
Pearsall, TX

Please vote YES for this bill. Preserving fresh water is a necessity. As populations rise there is less and less clean fresh water available. Please save our rivers and streams!

Christina Rodriguez
Self, musician/filmmaker/activist
Austin, TX

Water is life. We need water to live. If we poison the water by allowing waste and pollutants we destroy the water for thousands upon thousands of people. Perspective— if your toothbrush fell in the toilet, would you still use it? If someone took water out of the toilet and gave it to you to drink, would you? Would you swim in water that someone defecated in? Why would you then allow contamination like that for the rest of the citizens of texas? Please reconsider and don't allow this bill to pass. The health of the water translates to the health of the land and the health of the people.

Amber Clowney
SELF, 8th generation Texan
Pipe Creek, TX

The dreadful practice of allowing treated effluent to be dumped into nutrient void hill country streams needs to stop. Policies that are acceptable in other parts of the state are catastrophic here. The Hill Country has a unique ecosystem with our artisan springs

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& aquifers & the limestone that serves as their filter. Because of this, hill country creeks & rivers are almost entirely devoid of nutrients which gives them their beautiful, crystal clear water. When you allow the dumping of treated effluent into these rivers you are also dumping tons of Nitrogen & Phosphorus into the waterways because these elements can't be removed during the treatment process. This provides an immediate food source for algae almost overnight a clear, clean river will become choked with thing, green algae & will become unusable for recreation & livestock. Once a River is contaminated it's almost impossible to return it to its original pristine condition. The hill country is celebrated for these beautiful rivers & we have an abundant tourism industry here. We need local controls here to stop this practice of dumping treated effluent into creeks! Considering the hill country is a PGMA and is currently in a drought, this treated effluent also is a valuable grey water that can be used to wash vehicles & to irrigate with. We need to reuse & conserve every drop that we can here in the hill country & giving county commissioners some local controls to responsibility manage growth & development will go a long way to help with our unique water issues in the PGMA. Please stand up for Texans & Texas' unique & beautiful Hill Country so that future generations can enjoy it too.

Ishrat kundawala

Self

Austin, TX

We need to continue to protect our precious water from wastewater and pollutants. Strongly support this bill. Thank you.

Paula Levihn-Coon, MR

self/retired

Austin, TX

With few pristine waterways in Texas, this is a VERY important piece of legislation that needs to be passed in order to protect our waterways.

Robert Smith

Self, Filmmaker

Vanderpool, TX

I kindly ask you representatives, when considering how to vote on the powers and ability of TCEQ in regards to permitting and usage of our waterways to discharge waste water, that you take into account their ability to decide the fate of the surrounding communities. This is not about an alarmist and hyperbolic melting-polar-ice-cap environmentalist response, but instead about an immediately shared resource. My family lives in a remote hill country canyon, with our property overlooking the Sabinal River. A river deemed by the TCEQ as "pristine" and among the last remaining in the state. The same group who acknowledge the beauty and rarity of our waterways, also has the ability to strip this "pristine" designation away by awarding major corporations and tax exempt groups the ability to dump their waste water, at standards below the natural stasis of gods intentions, into these waterways. Our communities economy largely relies on vacationers and sight seers to visit and enjoy the purely awesome beauty of this now diminishing beacon of nature. I hope you can appreciate the value and rarity of the flora and fauna, the species of ferns and riparian greenery that may very well exist only within our specific river system. No matter the technology, man can never reset nature and it's resources back a purely untouched state. The externalities of dumping what seems to be treated and clean water will never be recouped as we continue to watch cypress trees, many of which are older than the United States and also the Republic of Texas, suffocate from the increase in algae while once strongly flowing springs are reduced to trickles. I also hope you will consider the other regions beyond ours who are impacted by, and are at the mercy of, this legislation. I again urge you to use your elected power to preserve for your grandchildren, and beyond, a small glimpse into what made the state of Texas worth fighting for so long ago.

Toni Kunz

Self

Bandera, TX

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We must protect our natural resources at all cost. Granting these types of permits is only step one of many years of maintenance and oversight where success is dependent on self-governance, which has been proven to be very rare (and getting more rare daily). We, the taxpayer/government, do not have the resources to monitor all the granted permits that we have so taking the chance on granting these is rural, remote, pristine areas is setting us up for failure. Sometimes the right answer is NO. PLEASE whatever you can to NOT allow these discharge permits into rural pristine environmental / natural resources.

Hillary Garza
"self" Educator
Austin, TX

I support the passage of HB 4146.

Fresh Water is a precious commodity that we must protect in order to ensure the future of our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Adrienne Rivers
Self/Rancher
Austin, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

Mark Huffstutler
Huff Air, LLC.
Uvalde, TX

protect the Texas Rivers by prohibiting discharges.

Robin Gary, Ms.
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association
Manor, TX

We support passage of HB 4146. This bill would protect an estimated 2,000 miles across 44 stream segments, including the prized waters of the Texas Hill Country. With Texas' booming population growth, it is essential we better protect our natural resources and pristine waters... for all residents, visitors, and future generations. Everyone wins with this bill.

Martin Kelly
SELF
Austin, TX

I support HB 4146. We must protect our headwater streams. It has been shown in the scientific literature that headwater streams affect downstream water quality. Even low levels of nutrients can cause a shift in the streams trophic status which affects every aspect of how the stream functions. Additionally, these streams are part of what makes the Texas Hill Country so unique and beautiful.

Melinda Neblett
Self
Austin, TX

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It is highly important that this bill is approved. Discharging waste into our waterways is third-world practice and unacceptable. Pristine water is our greatest (and most vulnerable) asset.

NANCY RINN

Farhaven

UTOPIA, TX

I SUPPORT this bill to protect our pristine waterways.

MARK HALL

MN UTOPIA HOMES INC

Utopia, TX

in SUPPORT of this bill to protect our rivers and streams. Much of our livelihood depends on preserving the beauty of this area we live in. Increasing development and population density is threatening these rivers and streams

James Price

Self

Wimberley, TX

I support HB 4146.

Karis Zemanek

Self - Farm and Ranch Real Estate Broker

Cypress, TX

I am strongly in favor for this bill. My parents own acreage on the Sabinal River, I grew up spending weekends and holidays at the property . The Sabinal River is why we go, we live in the water in the summer. And now as an adult with a 2.5 year old boy and another one on the way, I want nothing more than to have my babies create fun and memories there just as I did growing up. If pollutants and waste are being dumped into the river, why on earth would anyone want their children, loved ones and even themselves swim in it?! It is mind boggling this is even a topic to discuss. Not only is it harmful to humans, it will 100% have a negative impact on the natural wildlife in the area. It is tragic to hear and I hope and pray we all work together to support this bill to protect and maintain the beauty of the Texas Hill Country and the people who love it.

Christine Haney

self

Wimberley, TX

I support passage of HB 4146. Please keep our streams clean!

Kevin Flinn

Self (professional engineer)

Benbrook, TX

I, Kevin Flinn, representing myself, am in favor of HB CS4246. As a professional engineer in the state of Texas practicing in the water and wastewater industry, I have observed how critical wastewater permits are to protecting the public health and quality of

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public waters. Discharge permits that are more strict (including low total nitrogen and phosphorus limits) are beneficial to the public in the entire state of Texas. Additionally, pristine rivers such as the Devils, Nueces, Pecos and others serve as attractions for ecotourism which supports the local economy in these areas. It is in the best interest of the state to preserve these natural streams and rivers so that they can be experienced and enjoyed by all current and future generations of Texans.

Bob Slaughter

Self

Driftwood, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Dwight Russell

Self

Austin, TX

I own land on the Frio river near Leakey and I am in favor of hb4146. We depend on the river for drinking water.

Joseph Chase Rivera

Self

La Porte, TX

Please support our pristine rivers. Our science cannot fix what took nature eons on time to build.

Alyssa Gomez, Teacher

Self

Uvalde, TX

Thank you! Please pass this bill!

Shannon Brotherton

Self

San marcos, TX

I am in favor of this bill.

Daniel Harrison

Self, state employee

Hutto, TX

I support this bill to protect those remaining unpolluted streams in Texas. Most of the streams and rivers in Texas are now polluted with industrial wastes, sewage effluent or agricultural waste. We still have a few like the upper Frio and Nueces that are major tourist attractions for contact recreation. This bill will protect and preserve these for future generations. We need to prevent the further degradation of our state's natural fresh water.

james leclair

Self

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Lockhart, TX

I support HB CS4146 to help protect Texas streams. Please vote in favor.

Judith Coffin

self

Austin, TX

Protecting our waters has got to be a TOP priority. This should be a no brainer!

Barbara McCullough

Self

Kerrville, TX

I support HB 4146 to protect our precious water resources.

Chasidy Palmer

Self

Boerne, TX

For

Perri Satterwhite

Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

Wimberley, TX

I support passage of HB 4146.

Karolina West

Self

Saginaw, TX

I am in favor of protecting our remaining pristine rivers that serve so many. Do not contaminate these beautiful waters - we only have so much left

Chris Thibodaux

None

San Marcos, TX

I suppose passage of HB 4146

David Drewa

Self/Business Owner

San Antonio, TX

I SUPPORT and am commenting FOR HB 4146. This bill is critical to protecting and keeping clean the few unpolluted creeks and streams that still remain in our state, particularly in the Texas Hill Country and Nueces River basin.

Many of these pristine streams are important sources of recharge for the Edwards Aquifer. Scientists confirm surface waters degraded by wastewater effluent also degrades the Edwards Aquifer, on which over two million Texans rely on as their primary source of potable water.

The rapid growth in many of these areas must not be allowed to pollute our natural resources and compromise drinking water for Texas citizens.

Growth is inevitable, but it must be managed properly and not allowed to jeopardize our health and environment. Treated effluent to land via issuance of a Texas Land Application Permit (TLAP) is a viable and cost-effective alternative to direct discharge into pristine streams and creeks.

This bill would help protect Texans and our precious water resources.

I strongly urge you to pass HB 4146 favorably out of committee. Thank you!

Joann Laxson

Self

Crystal City, TX

Please vote yes to restrict discharge of any waste or pollutants into our clear, beautiful rivers or creeks.

We need to protect our treasure not cause damage to what nature as given us. I own property on Sabinal River and I know of no one who would want to have property down stream, swim, or recreate in waste water discharge! Please consider the economic impact to the areas. Sabinal River, Nueces, Frio, and Devils River are unique treasures and should be protected! Please vote Yes and save our rivers.

David Drewa

Preserve Our Hill Country Environment

San Antonio, TX

We are FOR HB 4146. Preserve Our Hill Country Environment (www.preserveourhillcountry.org) is working to help preserve and protect the land, water, air, and unique features of the Texas Hill Country. We have over 5,000 members, supporters, followers, and subscribers in Comal County and the Hill Country. This legislation is important to help keep clean and preserve unpolluted creeks and streams that still remain in our state, particularly in the Texas Hill Country. Many of these pristine streams are important sources of recharge for the Edwards Aquifer and other sensitive groundwater resources. Scientists confirm surface waters degraded by wastewater effluent also degrades the Edwards Aquifer, on which over two million Texans rely on as their primary source of potable water. The rapid growth in many of these areas must not be allowed to pollute our natural resources and compromise drinking water for Texas citizens. Growth is inevitable, but it must be managed properly and not allowed to jeopardize our health and environment. Treated effluent to land via issuance of a Texas Land Application Permit (TLAP) is a viable and cost-effective alternative to direct discharge into pristine streams and creeks. This bill would help protect Texans and our precious water resources. We urge you SUPPORT and move forward HB 4146.

MARTHA NORMAN

Devils River Conservance

Del Rio, TX

Please vote to preserve and protect our precious rivers and waterways. We are polluting ourselves to death.

Leah Cuddeback

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Self - Hill Country Alliance Communications

Wimberley, TX

I am in strong support of HB 4146, as submitted by Representative King. Our pristine waters are an important part of our Texas heritage and should be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Patrick Cox, Dr.

Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association

Wimberley, TX

TESPA supports HB 4146 that will protect our pristine waters in order to protect our essential natural resources that are important to all Texans

Ashley Hollmig

self attorney

Austin, TX

It is critical we keep our rivers as pristine as possible - they are treasures being destroyed by waste water and can benefit from a simple fix...which starts with enacting restrictions on waste water discharge. Please vote in favor of House Bill CS4146.

Chelsea Browning

Self

Utopia, TX

We need our rivers clear for clean health?

Lynn Scotty

self retired

Vanderpool, TX

I support of the passage of HB 4146.

Charmaine Chaney

Self

Utopia, TX

I support hb4146 because we get one chance at protecting our pristine waterways for our health, the environment and future generations- this is it

Jeff Braun

Private Business

College Station, TX

Jeff & Melody Braun 1935 Spanish Moss Drive College Station, TX 77845 (281) 787-8040

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your support of csHB 4146 which, if passed, would take important steps to protect the last few pure rivers and streams existing in our state. We are taxpayers in Bandera County and are small business owners with a

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vacation rental business along the Upper Sabinal River between Utopia and Vanderpool. The river that runs through our property is one of the segments of pristine river that this legislation is intended to protect. We want to see these pristine waters protected before it is too late. These rivers are the lifeblood for the tourism business in this part of the state contributing significantly to local economies in many small towns. We are aware you will play an important role in the future of this proposed legislation. We hope you will seriously consider the impact on rural citizens who depend on these rivers for their livelihoods, as well as the many Texans who are attracted to these rivers for recreation each year.

This legislation is a crossover issue that unites people no matter where they stand on the political spectrum. As we have talked with ranchers, landowners and conservationists throughout the region, there is a widespread concern that the Hill Country streams and rivers are under threat of degradation from the dumping of wastewater. This is evidenced by the recent algae blooms along the Blanco and the San Gabriel Rivers that have ruined these once beautiful areas after wastewater permits were issued. The damage to these rivers deters recreational tourists who would otherwise be spending money on lodging, restaurants and supplies. The tax base of rural counties will be negatively impacted by lowered sales and hotel taxes that are vital to many of the counties and small towns along these rivers. Landowners are also worried about the negative impact on their property values.

This legislation would prohibit the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) from issuing permits to discharge treated wastewater into rivers and streams that have very low or non-existent levels of total phosphorus as recorded over the last 10 years. This is reasonable and well thought out limitation and would give the TCEQ the ability to advocate a more responsible approach for managing wastewater. We implore the committee to approve this legislation to protect these rivers for the future generations. Thank you very much. Jeff & Melody Braun

John Scotty

self retired

Vanderpool, TX

Please support the passage of HB 4146.

Tabitha Johnson

Self, Legal Assistant

San Antonio, TX

These waters should be protected at all cost, they are the lifeblood of our precious ecosystems and aquifers. Water is quickly becoming one of the most important resources to our state, especially with Climate Change making noticeable changes to our state, and this is only the beginning of what our future holds. We must take steps to protect our water sources NOW. Before it's too late.

Keith Krause

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support the restrictions on discharge permits in Texas rivers for the following reasons:

1. Texas rivers are a natural asset to the state and should be protected. Visitors bring revenue to the local communities.
2. Accidental discharge of pollutants occurs, as was recently in the news in Florida. Using other sewage-processing options reduce the chance of environmental damage, and keeps the rivers in their near-pristine state.

Thank you for considering my opinion on this ecological matter.

Diana Heinig

self-Newborn Care Specialist

Manchaca, TX

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I support passage of HB 4146

David Klingele

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB4146, keeping waste and other pollutants out of the water shed is not only important for conserving our natural resources but protecting public health.

Annetta Slaten

Texas citizens

Bandera, TX

I object to this bill I want our texas rivers to stay clean and clear.

Justin Farmer

self, furniture maker

Woodcreek, TX

I support passage of HB 4146

Suzanne Martin

self retired

Cedar Park, TX

Please help keep our rivers clean. Require alternative waste treatments.

Katherine Mahoney

Save Our Springs

Austin, TX

I fully support this bill. Using pristine waterways as dumping grounds for any sort of effluent or discharge is actively harmful.

Gloria Carrillo

self

Utopia, TX

I am in favor of this bill.

Andrew Hatch

Self

Knippa, TX

I moved here to the hill country specifically for my kids to be able to enjoy the beautiful rivers. Pass this bill to stop the pollution of our rivers.

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Linda Haddock
Self
Johnson City, TX

I am against any discharge of treated wastewater water into our Texas rivers or tributaries as it will have a negative impact on the biological balance which supports plants and wildlife.

Corrina McGowan
SABINAL CANYON COALITION
Pipe Creek, TX

My Name is Corrina McGowan

WE NEED TO PRESERVE & PROTECT THE AQUIFER THE HILLCOUNTRY
WE BECOME STEWARDS OF MOTHER EARTH

THESE RIVERS & SEASONAL CREEKS ARE MOTHER EARTH'S ARTERIES

LIKE THE VEINS THAT CARRY BLOOD THRU OUR BODIES

WE ARE TO PRESERVE & PROTECT HER

IN 2014 WE BOUGHT 15 ACRES
HAVE A 3 SYSTEM AROBIC SYSTEM
THAT HYDRATES A NICE AREA DAILY
HAS BECOME A NICE HABIT FOR POLLINATORS, DEER SLEEP & EAT THERE,

MY POINT BEING THESE APPLICANTS CLAIM THEY OUR CHRISTIAN LEADERS TEACHERS & GUIDING YOUTH,
THEN YOU TEACH THEM TO CONTAIN YOUR WASTE ON YOUR PROPERTY YOU CREATED

YOU HAVE ALL THIS MONEY TO CREATE THOUSAND ACRES RANCHES SUMMER CAMPS
THEN YOU AND YOUR INVESTORS HOLD YOURSELF ACCOUNTABLE FOR WHAT YOU CREATE IN A
COMMUNITY

OUR PROPERTY IS CERTIFIED WILDLIFE HABITAT

TCEQ IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH CLEAN AIR WATER & SAFE MANAGEMENT OF WATER,
THEY HAVE FAILED,

I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE ON ALL FUTURE WELL PERMITS 100% CONTAINMENT,

ONLY SO MANY WELL PERMITS CAN BE ISSUED ON A SET AMOUNT OF ACREAGE (15) MAYBE

TO CLOSE OUT, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE TO RISE UP WHEN WE SEE WRONG,

I'VE ON PROPERTY AFFECTED ITS PATHETIC AND SHOULD BE CRIMINAL TO DISCHARGE ANY AMOUNT OF
WASTE INTO OUR WATERWAYS

THANK YOU CORRINA MCGOWAN AKA #KRZYL8T

MNI WICONI = WATER IS LIFE

Leonard Blumberg, Mr.
Self, Software Engineer
Round Rock, TX

In my life, I have had the opportunity to enjoy some pristine waters in Texas, locations I often use to brag about amazing my home state is, and I want my children and grandchildren to have that opportunity as well.

I do not trust that our waters will remain as they are without genuinely impactful consequences for those that pollute our waters. Texas has lost much of its natural beauty in my lifetime, and I do not want to watch the places I frequented in my youth to decay and degrade because someone couldn't be bothered to deal with their pollutants properly.

I am fully in support of this bill.

Elias Smith
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I am IN FAVOR of supporting this bill. The Devils River and other Texas Rivers should be protected and preserved for years to come!

Patricia Smith
self
Leakey, TX

Please don't allow individuals/groups to discharge wastewater into our rivers. It's an obvious environmental assault. Many people rely on the river for drinking water, independently of any municipality. It seems this bill's supporters are wealthy individuals, especially a particular wealthy and outspoken attorney, as well as some who don't want the expense of being responsible by building/maintaining proper septic tank systems. There is no justifiable reason to allow this type of discharge.

Mayra Vasquez
Uvalde tx
Uvalde, TX

This an important bill for our environment and future.

Norman Farmer
self-employed Gen. Partner JARRETTJUNORANCH PARTNER, HIGHWAY tx163, 29513 cOMSTOCK, tEXAS
Austrin, TX

We urge the committee to vote FOR the passage of HB 4146 to restrict permits authorizing direct discharge of waste or pollutants into the waters at the tributaries of The Devils River, whose springs lie 1 mile from my ranch Headquarters. This ranch has been in the Jarrett Family since 1918. Cora Jane Jarrett Farmer is the principal General Partner.

Drew Neyland

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Self, Wildlife biology graduate student

Huntsville, TX

I'm writing this in support of HB 4146. These rivers and bodies of water are important to myself, my family, and Texans along the river as well as across the state. My family has been flocking to the Frio every year since my grandma was a child, it's where I met my now fiancé, and it's an amazing community centered around the pristine waters that drive the economic survival of the area. I have spent time paddling the Nueces and Devil's river as well and made fond memories there. These rivers support tourism through both recreational and nature viewing opportunities. Many people are drawn to these rivers and others across the state to view birds and catch fish that depend on the viability of these waters. This bill would allow people to be reassured that their livelihoods are not in danger of disappearing due to an outside force. It would also help to protect our beautiful rivers, amazing wildlife, and our unique Texan landscapes. I urge the committee to support this bill so that many generations of Texans such as my family can enjoy these pristine rivers.

Sierra Vernon

self - musician

Austin, TX

I enthusiastically support HB 4146 to keep our streams, springs, and natural pools clean!

Ethan Glawe

Self, former Texas state employee

Austin, TX

I respectfully request your support for the passage of this bill, to prohibit future state issued permits facilitating the discharge of sewage effluent into our clean, fresh state waterways.

Madeline Wade

Self, student

San Marcos, TX

I support HB 4146! We must protect our clean rivers and the provisional, regulatory, and cultural services they provide.

Jennifer Gonzalez

Self and human resources

Austin, TX

Please protect our precious land and waters. If not us, then who?

Shellie McCumber

Nueces River Authority

GEORGE WEST, TX

Please prohibit wastewater discharge into our few remaining pristine rivers and creeks including the upper Nueces, Frio, and Devils Rivers.

Robert Corbin

myself

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Austin, TX

FOR IT

Kimberly Carter

myself

Leakey, TX

I live on the Frio River and support this legislation because it benefits all the still-pure rivers in west Texas. A clean Frio provides a huge economic boost to counties such as Real which are dependent on tourism. Healthy aquatic systems are vital to preserve and nurture wildlife, plant life, and quality of human life for all Texans. I saw what phosphorus discharge did to the San Gabriel River in my former hometown and it is absolutely terrible. Wastewater should be treated by land application and not allowed in streams that supply our drinking water. TCEQ needs the ability to deny these permit applications for discharge into our precious rivers.

Sam Sugarek

Nueces River Authority

Corpus Christi, TX

HB 4146. Please, please, please do not allow wastewater treatment plants to discharge their effluent to the sensitive and pristine hill country streams. Any amount of nutrients will have devastating long term effects on water quality and will result in murky green water that nobody will want to swim in. Tourism and property values will surely be affected if wastewater is allowed in these streams. Reservoirs are NOT included in this bill. Thank you for your time.

Dorrine Fisher

Self

Austin, TX

Vote for regulations of safe water

Yasmina Platt

Myself

Houston, TX

Water is among the four basic elements of life and energy: fire, air, water, and earth. It is like the blood in our veins. For some, it's even sacred.

It is also used for recreation and tourism, driving the economy of many small towns along rivers and lakes.

We have to protect our waterways. Once contaminated, they'll be gone and we won't ever get them back. They're too limited and precious to lose them.

I strongly support HB 4146. Thank you Rep King for your sponsorship.

Ciara Camp

self- shift lead

Wimberley, TX

I support HB 4146 to help keep my hometown clean.

Blanca Balderas

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Self retired

Houston, TX

Please keep these last few rivers pure

Stephen Ramirez

Self

San Marcos, TX

This is a much needed step in the right direction for wastewater discharge permits that impact sensitive streams. We're seeing a lot of springfed streams impacted by weak treatment standards that are designed to meet statewide criteria and fail to account for the unique sensitivity of our diverse hill country and spring fed streams.

Danielle Gincoo

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I support HB4146!

Kathleen Cook

None

Houston, TX

Please keep our water clean

Melissa Moreno

Self

San Marcos, TX

I support HB4146!!!

Barton Lane

self, physicist

Austin, TX

I support the passage of this bill restricting the direct discharges of waste or pollutants into pristine waterways.

Tana McBride

Self

Rio Frio, TX

We desperately need to protect our pristine rivers. So many lives are enhanced by the memories made by families who visit our rivers each year. Not to mention the economic impact the river has on our small towns. We would not be able to reside in this area if not for our beautiful river. Please vote to protect our waters!