

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 623

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

---

Hearing Date: April 20, 2021 8:00 AM

---

Blanca Larson

Del Rio Chamber of Commerce

Del Rio, TX

The Del Rio Chamber of Commerce would like to support HB 623. The windmills will affect the low-level training routes for Laughlin Air Force Base (LAFB). Laughlin employs approximately 20% of our labor force and affects over 20% of our housing market. It is one of the top pilot producing bases in the country and we need to protect it. Laughlin is located 6 miles east of Del Rio on the Texas- Mexico border.

Alice Ball Strunk

self, Agricultural Law, Hudspeth River Ranch, Val Verde County

Comstock, TX

IN FAVOR OF HB 623. This bill solely applies to Val Verde County, Texas, so it is a local bill providing the Commissioners Court power to site wind farms in the area. Currently the wind farm business is totally unregulated in Texas. Val Verde County is a very special place as you have heard recently. TCEQ has designated the pristine Devils River as its benchmark river to judge the health and water quality of other rivers. As such, it is a treasure loved by anyone who visits. In addition, it was recently designated as a National Historic Landmark District for the many Native American sites and internationally recognized cave paintings also known as "Rock Art" dating back 4000 years. There are also 38,000 acres state parks along the river and a Federal park as well around the beautiful Lake Amistad. More than one million people visit these parks each year. Wind energy developments are not compatible with this land use. In addition, 150,000 plus acres are under private conservation easements in perpetuity. Wind farms will compromise the Department of Homeland Security's ability to secure the Texas-New Mexico border because they can not pursue the illegals through the maze of wind towers. The wind turbines have also been proven to interfere with radar signals which would put our training pilots at the nearby Laughlin AFB in peril. Laughlin conducts training on low level flight paths which extend from the base to the northern part of the County. I can attest that they fly over my ranch almost every day. PLEASE VOTE IN FAVOR OF HB 623. THANK YOU.

James "Skip" Baker, Owner Gatti's Pizza

Gatti's Pizza

Del Rio, TX

I support this bill. I want Texas to be very sure that foreign nationals are not buying so much land on our Mexican border. The towers disrupt Doppler radar returns and where the towers are, that area has to be blanked out. Airplanes the fly through there, are not on radar. These towers limit our Texas low level training routes that are armed services use for training our countries pilots.

Antonio Hernandez

Amistad Bank

DEL RIO, TX

This Bill is extremely important to the Val Verde County community as well as all surrounding counties. I am in full support of this Bill. The longevity of Laughlin Air Force Base (LAFB) could hang in the balance as well as a national security issue of wind

Printed on: May 19, 2021 2:18 PM

turbines that may be owned and influenced by the Chinese Government. These turbines could potentially be located in near proximity of LAFB and may have an effect on flying patterns and training routes/missions. LAFB is the premier pilot training base in the country!!! PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL

Tod Townsend

Del Rio Host Lions Club

Del Rio, TX

I support HB 623 to help protect Laughlin Air Force Base flight paths and give Val Verde County the right to aid in the decision where wind generators will be placed.

Jeanne Slover, Owner Roberts Jewelers, Graduate Gemologist, past President Texas Jewelers Assoc.

self, Roberts Jewelers, Graduate Gemologist

Del Rio, TX

This bill would allow Val Verde County, and several other counties the ability to regulate wind farms. I am in support of HB 623 for several reasons. Laughlin Air Force Base currently trains the most pilots in all of Air Education Training Command, which is vital for our country's national defense. We must protect Laughlin's air space from encroachment, including the Integrity of the low flying and evaluation routes. Wind farms also disrupt radars and other equipment essential to safely training the world's best pilots. I am in support of HB 623, and urge you to support HB 623 as well, for the safety of Laughlin's students and instructors, and also our great country.

Sylvia Owens

self

Del Rio, TX

I strongly support this bill. LAFB is our largest single source of employment, we need to protect their airspace.

FRANK H LARSON

Del Rio Area Development Corp Life Director Del Rio Military Affairs.. Life Director Del Rio Chamber of Commerce

Del Rio, TX

HB 623... Definitely against any more Windfarms in our Area... Val Verde HB 623 or Counties North or West.. They will be a THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY IF FOREIGN OWNED.. ALSO If USA OWNED BUT FOREIGN CONTROLLED.. The are a threat to our FLYING MISSION AT LAFB as well as other AFB Planes that use our AirSpace.. The LOW LEVEL routes and and the Evacuation routes have been and will be compromised.. The Fact that LAFB is a USA border base may be a line of defense that might be needed one day in the future.. Compromising the mission now and allowing foreign proximity to our military installation.. It is a bad idea..

FRANK H LARSON

Del Rio Area Development Corp Life Director Del Rio Military Affairs.. Life Director Del Rio Chamber of Commerce

Del Rio, TX

This Is Something needed to protect LAFB... No Foreign Investment Next to or around Military's Bases.. No interruption of Flight Paths or interfering with missions.. Protect the Border..

Frank Holman

Self

Printed on: May 19, 2021 2:18 PM

Austin, TX

Vote to pass this bill. We must protect Texas.