

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1912

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Hearing Date: April 19, 2021 2:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Travis Curl

Taxpayers

Kingwood, TX

We need increased responsibility in this area. The effects on people, property and costs to the State and taxpayers is wrong.

Randy Braud

Self

Humble, TX

We MUST regulate and limit the operations of the sand miners in and around the San Jacinto River/Lake Houston. They have been getting away with "environmental murder" by being allowed to release sand into our precious waterways. This not only plugs up the waterways (which must be dredged at a huge expense), dramatically increases the risk of flooding and contaminates water needed for drinking.

Charlotte Abbott

Self

Kingwood, TX

We must have strict and enforced permits and regulations on sand mining operations on the San Jacinto River

Shirlene Love

self retired home owner

Kingwood, TX

Support limiting the sand mine pollution.

Fred Mitchell

CAH379065466

Humble, TX

I support passage of this bill protecting our environment and residents from contaminants produced at concrete batch plants.

Judy Thigpen

Self, retired

Humble, TX

Please support HB 1912. Limiting different types of pollution and soil erosion is very important and making sure equipment is

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operating within limits is needed. Possibly a pay up front deposit to help assure compliance.

Sally Valle
Self, Retired Teacher
Kingwood, TX

I support Bill HB 1912 by Wilson. Our Communities should be protected from abuses caused from irresponsible companies practices and be able to be compensated for damage that they cause.
If they are required to follow specific limits and mandates regarding air quality, light-, noise-, water pollution and soil erosion, or they are required to be financially responsible for their violation then, I believe, these companies will be more responsible in helping ensure that the environment surrounding us and our communities will be safer and more protected.

Edward Futterer
Self
Kingwood, TX

I wholeheartedly support HB1912. Thank you.

Best regards,
Edward Futterer
Resident of Kingwood, Texas

Fred McCarty, Mr.
Royal Shores Community Association, Inc.
Humble, TX

On behalf of the Royal Shores Community Association, Inc. and its 236 home owners, I encourage the House to support and approve HB1912 which will implement better controls to reduce air pollution from aggregate production operations and concrete batch plants.

Janet McCleary
Self
Kingwood, TX

I am in support of this bill.

Dennis McCleary
Self
Kingwood, TX

I support passage of this bill to protect the environment and air quality around sand mines, cement plant and aggregate mining.

Becky Offenbacher
self/retired
Kingwood, TX

I wish to express my support for this bill. It is much legislation and I urge its passing.

Alan Smith

Self

Kingwood, TX

I favor increased regulation of aggregate processing operations. These plants produce significant amounts of dust, noise and light as they operate. Also, there is significant storm water runoff from these operations that results in soil erosion and silt flowing into adjacent rivers and streams. Each of these forms of pollution is detrimental to the surrounding areas as well as reducing the capacity of the adjacent rivers and streams. This is a major problem in the San Jacinto River Watershed and regulation of these facilities will be a good first step towards improving the environment in this watershed.

Richard L. Korenek

SELF

Kingwood, TX

I wish to acknowledge support for this bill as it relates to sand mine pollution. This particularly applies as it relates to the San Jacinto river basin. The federal, state and local governments have spent millions to dredge this waterway in the past year. It needs to stay open to prevent flooding of homes and business as happened during the last hurricane.

robert liddell

Self Kingwood Resident Aviation consulting

kingwood, TX

Post Harvey tens of millions of dollars were spent dredging the San Jacinto River in order to protect Kingwood and Humble from future flooding. Without sand mining regulations and restrictions, sand and silt will again clog the river, causing great risk to the communities that are finally recovering from billions of dollars in losses from Hurricane Harvey. Montgomery County has completely abdicated their responsibility to manage and hold accountable these sand mining companies. Montgomery County and TCEQ also failed in their fiduciary responsibility to properly manage San Jacinto River Authority operating procedures. Without proper management and oversight of San Jacinto River there is high risk potential of another hurricane that could cause additional billions of dollars in damage to our communities. If this happens again, in all likelihood many thousands of residents will leave the area, thus causing a complete loss of tax base in the Lake Houston Economic Development Zone and Northeast Houston. It is critical to regain control of environmental factors that put our community at risk to loss of life and property during hurricane season. NOW Robert Liddell (bob@accessaviation.com)

ROBERT HARRELL

SELF / RETIRED

KINGWOOD, TX

I AM A STRONG SUPPORTER OF HB 1912 TO HELP FUTURE FLOODING IN OUR AREA.

ALISON HARRELL

SELF / RETIRED

KINGWOOD, TX

I AM INTERESTED IN PREVENTING FUTURE FLOODING IN OUR AREA AND I SUPPORT HB 1912 IN THAT REGARD.

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Dianne Lansden

Self

Kingwood, TX

Please vote to limit sand mine operators and concrete batch plants from polluting our environment. As it stands now, these producers can ruin the air quality.

Edward LaCour

Kingwood Residents/ My Family

Kingwood, TX

My home was devastated by the Harvey flood in 2017 and the sand deposition over the years was a large contributing factor! Millions and millions of dollars are being spent to mitigate some of the permanent damage to our drainage system caused by the sand and aggregate mining along the San Jacinto river. I ask that everyone recognize the need to maintain the River and lake in a manner to minimize another catastrophe in the future. Please support HB1912. Thank you for your attention and consideration of this matter!!

Sarah Wakefield

Self

Kingwood, TX

I support this plan. This helps to prevent flooding

Mitchell Lansden

Self

Kingwood, TX

Please vote in favor of air quality permits for sand and gravel producers and concrete batch plants. These APOs need to be responsible for their actions. Thank you

Lawrence Vondrak

Homeowner

Kingwood, TX

Further to my comments on 767, as a flooded homeowner during Harvey, we certainly need common sense runoff controls from aggregate production operations. These controls are common sense and should be implemented. I am in favor.

Robert R. McCann

Self Retired

Kingwood, TX

I am a victim of Hurricane Harvey. Much of the flooding could have been prevented. I support HB 1912. Thank You.

Annalisa Peace

Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

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San Antonio, TX

The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance is FOR HB 1912.

Pamela Nolting

Self - retired

Kingwood, TX

Please vote favorably on HB 1912.

Thomas DeBoise

Homeowner

Kingwood, TX

I support air regulations for aggregate producers

Ron Copeland

self

Kingwood, TX

While I am a firm believer in property owner rights, I believe the rights of others who are affected by your land use need to be considered as well. Texas needs to take a more proactive role in regulating the use of land when it comes to sand mining since the operators of these mines have frequently run the mines in a way to that destroy natural lands along river banks and have contributed greatly both to pollution and flooding, especially in the San Jacinto river basin. Again, these companies have a right to earn and they contribute greatly to the real estate and infrastructure growth of the state, but they need to do so in a responsible manner and there needs to be more teeth in our current legislation and enforcement.

Clifford Kaplan

Hill Country Alliance

Austin, TX

RE: Support for HB 1912

Dear Chairman Landgraf and House Environmental Regulations Committee members,

The Hill Country Alliance (HCA) recognizes the critical role that the House Environmental Regulations Committee plays in shaping and advancing proposed legislation that protects Texans' health, safety, and quality of life, as well as Texas's natural resources, while preserving a business-friendly regulatory system.

HCA supports the passage of HB 1912 to improve the permitting process for certain Aggregate Production Operations (APOs) and Concrete Batch Plants (CBPs). This bill will maintain the business-friendly, predictable, single permit system for the industry, while strengthening certain protections for neighboring communities. This bill's provisions for air quality and noise monitoring, outdoor lighting controls, water management practices, traffic safety, and land reclamation, are all reasonable and, in fact, supported by the best of the best in the aggregates and concrete industry.

HCA works closely with landowners, local governments, businesses, and non-profits in 17 Hill Country counties. Due to the prominence of limestone in our region and the region's rapid growth, there is a lot of aggregates activity in the Hill Country. Gravel mines, rock quarries, sand mines, and concrete batch plants are expanding operations throughout the region, increasingly coming into conflict with local communities. The industry's rapid expansion and the conflicts associated with it have been well documented in the media and in the House Interim Committee on Aggregate Production Operations' (HIC-APO) 2020 report.

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Although, if adopted into law, HB 1912 will go a long way to address the impacts of APOs and CBPs and to minimize conflicts with nearby communities, it is not a perfect bill. For instance, we would have liked it to apply to temporary rock crushers, as well as permanent ones. We would also have preferred it to require the use of more sophisticated water conservation measures in parts of the state suffering from water scarcity. However, we think this bill represents a very good compromise with industry and a well-balanced approach for a large state with such varied natural resource conditions from region to region.

HCA is also a member of the Texans for Responsible Aggregate Mining (TRAM) coalition. TRAM has done extensive analysis on the financial impacts that this legislation would have on the industry. It has found that the costs, which would be passed on to consumers, are negligible. Similar analysis and findings were included in the HIC-APO report. The industry has not provided any thorough analysis to the contrary.

In short, the Hill Country Alliance is enthusiastic in its support for HB 1912 because it will create much needed protections for Texas communities and landowners, while preserving a business-friendly permitting process for industry, at a negligible cost to consumers.

Thank you for all you do for Texas.

Cliff Kaplan

DAVID DREWA

Self/Business Owner

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I strongly SUPPORT HB 1912. Across the state, it is clear that Texans have lost confidence in TCEQ's ability to protect our health and our environment. Of particular concern is the insufficient supervision of aggregate production operations (APOs), quarries, and concrete batch plants. In recognition of this problem, the House Interim Committee on Aggregate Production Operations was formed in 2020 and released a detailed report in January 2021. In many ways, this bill is a product of this report and its recommendations. Legislation to institute common-sense requirements and improve public health and safety is critically important to citizens across our great state. I am confident you will find widespread citizen support for this bills. I strongly SUPPORT HB 1912 and request that you bring it forward for a committee hearing as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact me.

David Drewa

Preserve Our Hill Country Environment

San Antonio, TX

We are FOR HB 1912. 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.

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In recognition of this problem, the House Interim Committee on Aggregate Production Operations was formed in 2020 and released a detailed report in January 2021. In many ways, this bill is a product of this report and its recommendations. Legislation to institute common-sense requirements and improve public health and safety is critically important to citizens across our great state.

Our organization strongly SUPPORTS HB 1912 and request that you report it favorably to the full House.

Ralph Richards, VP & GC

Jobe Materials.L.P.

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My company strongly opposes HB 1912 for the following reasons: In HB 1912, there is no tie or connection by distance or otherwise to a third party residence or business in close proximity to the quarry or plant it seeks to regulate. It applies to new applications and to renewals. HB 1912 would be very oppressive and in a number of ways almost impossible to comply with. A plant or quarry could be on a large acreage site of a 1,000 acres or more and in a very rural area many miles from any town or community and yet all of the provisions would still apply. It appears that the goal of HB 1912 is not to protect the health and safety of the public or neighbors or to protect the environment, but instead is designed to make it as difficult and expensive as possible to get a permit for a concrete batch plant or quarry. Please don't forget concrete and aggregate are necessary for growth and development and maintenance of existing infrastructure. This Bill goes way beyond regulation of Air Quality and would impose limits on noise and make the TCEQ responsible for monitoring and enforcing those limits. It would make the TCEQ responsible for monitoring blasting. It would impose lighting standards and limitations on lighting and also make the TCEQ responsible for monitoring and enforcing those standards. It would limit the source of water which is required for operations of either type of facility. Some facilities have their own wells and are not in a groundwater conservation district. It mandates notice to and PARTICIPATION by other state agencies in the permitting process. It appears to impose an obligation on the TCEQ for safety now fulfilled by OSHA or MSHA. Again, if the site is owned by the operator this is a strict regulation of private property rights far beyond air quality and environmental regulator authority now held by the TCEQ. It even proposes to specify the types of monitors that may be used for monitoring particulate matter. In a world of rapidly changing technology, it is not reasonable to by statute limit or dictate specific equipment that must be used for monitoring. It would require operators to DONATE to the Texas Department of Transportation funds for construction or alteration of roads used by the operators. The list goes on and on including a broad open requirement for reclamation and a requirement for a reclamation plan to make sure the site will be useful after the permit operations cease.