

PUBLIC COMMENTS

SB 1160

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Hearing Date: April 27, 2021 8:00 AM

Robert Nixon, Vice-Chairman

Surfrider Foundation

Laguna Vista, TX

The Honorable Representative King
Chair of Natural Resources Committee
Room GW.16
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

April 23, 2021

RE: Letter of Opposition to S.B. 1160 (Taylor)

Dear Chairman King,

Please accept this letter submitted on behalf of the five chapters of the Surfrider Foundation--Galveston Chapter, Texas Upper Coast Chapter, Central Texas Chapter, Texas Coastal Bend Chapter, the South Texas Chapter ("Surfrider"). Surfrider is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network.

Last week, Surfrider submitted a letter to you opposing H.B. 3029 (Paul), which has been assigned to the Natural Resources Committee. Its Senate companion, S.B. 1160 (Taylor), has now also been assigned to this committee and a hearing has been scheduled.

Surfrider is opposed to both H.B. 3029 and S.B. 1160, which would create the Gulf Coast Protection District; provide authority to issue bonds; provide authority to impose fees; provide authority to impose a tax; and grant the power of eminent domain. Surfrider is concerned this legislation would unduly impose upon local municipalities and impede Counties' authorities by adding an 'extra layer of government' to local communities and decision makers.

In addition, Surfrider opposes this legislation as it would directly set up a mechanism, using Texans' tax dollars, to fund ill-conceived projects proposed within the Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study. Using taxpayer dollars to construct unnecessary projects contradicts Texas's value of local control. Finally, this legislation could help expedite projects that lack proper and thorough environmental review.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter, and we urge you not to allow this legislation to pass out of your committee.

Sincerely,

Stuart Diamond
Chair, Surfrider Foundation South Texas Chapter
on behalf of:

Surfrider Foundation Galveston, Surfrider Foundation Texas Upper Coast, Surfrider Foundation Texas Coastal Bend, Surfrider Foundation South Texas, and Surfrider Foundation Central Texas

Patrick Brophey

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North Texas Commission

Irving, TX

The NTC supports SB 1160