

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Transportation  
For HB 1511

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 5:32 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

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Hearing Date: March 29, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Cathy Fulton

SELF and as a member of Port Aransas Conservancy  
Port Aransas, TX

I want to register my strong opposition to HB 1511 and the companion bill SB 818. HB 1511 is about the sale, lease, exchange or trade of real property owned by a navigation district or Port Authority to an electric utility or telecommunications company.

Specifically, I oppose paragraphs f and g:

(f) A district may donate, exchange, convey, sell, or lease a real property interest under Subsection (e) for less than its fair market value and without complying with the notice and bidding requirements of Sections 60.040, 60.041, and 60.042.

(g) Narrow strips of real property resulting from boundary or surveying conflicts or similar causes, or from insubstantial encroachments by abutting real property owners, or real property of larger configuration that has been subject to encroachments by abutting real property owners for more than 25 years may be abandoned, released, exchanged, or transferred to such abutting owners on terms and conditions considered appropriate or advantageous to the district. A district may convey real property under this subsection for less than its fair market value and without complying with the notice and bidding requirements of Sections 60.040, 60.041, and 60.042.

As I stated two years ago at the Port-Select Committee, removing public notice, public input and public bid is not supporting transparency and this bill as proposed stomps out all public participation. This proposed bill goes even further by allowing Port Authorities to just do a backroom deal with a utility provider all under the disguise of "public good" and allow the subject property to be disposed of "below market value". Why? If the property was acquired through condemnation, a port could then dump the property for less than market value, which reeks of impropriety. This type of wording would allow Port Authorities to withhold contract information with supposed public utilities from public scrutiny.

Port Authorities have no true oversight in the State of Texas. Port Authorities really don't have to answer to the Legislature or the Governor. Even when they violate State Law and the Open Meetings Act, nothing happens. I know this for a fact because of the many violations by the Port of Corpus Christi. Port Authorities are PUBLIC entities spending PUBLIC MONEY and they are not private corporations, except the POCCA seems to have a different attitude, privatizing profit (with a select few) while democratizing costs.

Rather than give Port Authorities more freedom to cut backroom deals and cheat the public, you guys and gals need to get off the stick and submit real legislation that creates true oversight of Texas Port Authorities and forces them to be responsive with information and the public.

Rachel Caballero

SELF  
Corpus Christi, TX

I AM AGAINST THIS BILL OR ANY LIKE IT. PORTS HAVE NO TRUE AUTHORITY OR JURISDICTION.

Michelle Mack  
My personal self  
Ingleside, TX

I oppose HB 1511 or HJR 144. Here is my comment to 1511: I want to register my strong opposition to HB 1511 and the companion bill SB 818. HB 1511 is about the sale, lease, exchange or trade of real property owned by a navigation district or Port Authority to an electric utility or telecommunications company. Specifically, I oppose paragraphs f and g:

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Kay Culpepper  
Self  
Port Aransas, TX

As a resident of Port Aransas, this affects me directly and I am opposed.

William Averbach, Mr  
Self  
Aransas Pass, TX

Please oppose this bill. The beautiful Coastal Bend will suffer greatly from it's passage. The repercussions would destroy many communities.

DJ Van  
I AM A VOTER!!  
San Benito, TX

Wow!! Are you on drugs? These bills HB101, HB2795, HJR144, HB2795, HB3418, HB2224, HJR144 would greatly burden Texans in the midst of inflation, ridiculous gas prices, NO BABY FORMULA, CRT BEING TAUGHT IN OUR SCHOOLS. Why don't you pass HB2709? Wow how in the world did you get in office and what a waste of time on behalf of us Texans. This is from the Rio Grande Valley.

Cathy Fulton

Self and Port Aransas Conservancy

Port Aransas, TX

Again, I oppose this bill. My question is why did Chairman Canales fail to acknowledge comments or opposition submitted online through this portal. I know for a fact others submitted comment on this bill too. Please acknowledge the public's comments whether for or opposed. Chairman Canales appears to not want public participation.