

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Transportation
For HB 2795

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 5:33 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.

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

Gerri Barrick, Mrs
Self Quality Improvement Consultant
Belton, TX

No foreign entity should be able to profit from funds on any toll roads unless that foreign entity fully funds the building of the road with no taxpayer funds or bonds. Vote no on this bill.

Magdalen Marbry
Self
Houston, TX

Opposed to Bill. Toll Road 130 was an opening for foreign investors into to the State of Texas. Defaulted on and Debt wiped out in 2017 in Bankruptcy Court. If funds are needed, suggest using some of TXDOT \$15Million windfall funds.

David Sims
self
Huntsville, TX

The contract should not be extended. We cannot allow this private contractor to collect tolls for another 20 years. This highway was paid for by tax payers and tolls. NO MORE TOLL ROADS !!!!!

Mike Guggisberg
Self/Retired
Alvin, TX
Oppose

Deborah Calvin

Self

Plano, TX

I oppose this bill. Why do we even have a FOREIGN company running this operation? We certainly don't want to extend this contract so they can continue profiting off our resources, especially when the road is paid for. Use some of TxDOT's \$15 billion windfall in new funds to pay-off the debt still owed on its portion of SH 130, then buy back the private portion from the foreign company, and make it a freeway.

Shelly Smyth

Self

Tyler, TX

I oppose this bill due to the fact that it gives funds and controll to a foreign entity.

Shari London, Mrs.

Self - self-employed

Rockwall, TX

I oppose this bill. This road is already paid for! Yet another example of the legislature hoping nobody will notice this kind of bill slipping by, and it is discouraging to see. And yet another reason for voters to rise up and oppose ANY future toll road, because of this very kind of bait and switch. We get promises of the toll ending when the road is paid, and now even when a road is paid off, you're trying to extend the toll! This bill would extend the tolls for another 20 years, directly benefiting the toll entity by building a free direct connected to SH130 built by a private entity, with the MOTORISTS footing the bill. If you drive down to Austin to come to work here at the Capitol - that means YOU and all of your staff. A better plan would be for TxDOT to use some of the 15 billion in windfall funds to pay off its portion of SH-130, buy back the private portion, and make it a freeway. THAT would benefit Texas motorists- not enrich toll collectors - and benefit anyone driving to Austin by relieving significant traffic from I-35. I urge the committee to report unfavorably on this bill. If not for others, at least do it for yourselves and your colleagues and staff in the Capitol!

Sheryl Hazelwood

Self

Tyler, TX

AGAINST HB 2795. I'm opposed to any foreign ownership/administration of Texas toll roads. Since TxDOT received a \$15B windfall, they should buy back foreign ownership of toll roads and build as needed to relieve congestion! Keep Texas toll money in Texas and when there is no longer debt on a road, discontinue the toll!!!

Bonnie Wallace

self; retired

LLANO, TX

I OPPOSE this bill because it is a deceitful way to get this company to build a direct connector from I-35 to this tollway. We should NOT extend the toll for another 20 years to this foreign company.

WILMA JOY Putnam

Self

Georgetown, TX

I oppose this bill.

It has TxDOT support because it provides a means to collect tolls for another 20 years on a road that has been fully paid for already for over FIVE .

Roger Hall
self - designer
Ingram, TX

I OPPOSE this bill - do not extend contract for SH 130. Pay off debt and make free road!

Tracy Knudsen
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

OPPOSE

Robert Wilson
Taxpayer and concerned citizen
Tyler, TX

Here we go again with beholding to toll companies legislation. Why are certain legislators so willing to cave to toll road operators and give them handouts? Why do you constantly want to do their bidding? Who is running this state? Or should I ask who owns certain legislators? Why give toll companies additional 20 years income when it's not necessary? The debt was wiped out in 2017 but looks like some legislators so beholding to the toll operators and want to milk taxpayers in the process by allowing fiscal theft of taxpayers? Why give them additional revenue? This is allowing toll operator's via its PPP proxy to steal additional taxpayer monies. If there is remaining debt, let the state use some of the \$15 billion new funds to pay off the debt? Buy back the debt from the foreign company and get rid of them. Stop pandering to foreign debt holders. Vote no on HB2795

DIANA CHAMBLESS

self
Bullard, TX

OPPOSE - Texas highways should benefit Texans...not the foreign private entities. How about using TxDOT's \$15 billion dollar windfall in new funds to pay off the remaining debt on Hwy 130 and make it a freeway? This would help Austin, not a foreign entity.

Dana McAuliffe
self/retired
San Marcos, TX

I oppose HB 2795 to extend the private toll contract on SH 130, allowing a foreign company to collect tolls for another 20 years. This road is already paid for and should no longer be a toll road.

Patricia Barrett
cwa
Houston, TX

This bill would allow a private foreign company to collect tolls for another 20 years, when the road is already paid for (its debt was wiped out in bankruptcy court in 2017). TxDOT has a \$15B windfall profit. Use that and do NOT burden working people trying to get to work, especially in a time of raging inflation. TxDOT's goal is to get a free direct connector to SH 130 on I-35 built by the private entity. They should use that windfall to buy back the toll road and relieve Texas drivers of yet another hidden tax.

Kelley Rumps
self retired
The Woodlands, TX

I oppose this bill.

Tim Kane
self, retired
Tyler, TX

This bill would extend tolling on roads already paid for. These roads should be returned to non-toll status, and these foreign operators should go home.

Mark Russell
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing to register my opposition to HB 2795. I oppose HB 2795 because extending the duration of a toll program will place additional financial burden on Texas drivers.

Thank you.

Darrell Forster
Dairy Queen Of Tyler
Tyler, TX

I oppose the bill.

Ginger Gee
Retiree/Self
Harlingen, TX

Seriously? As a voter & resident of R.G.V., I'd really love to see the government for once fulfill its end of a contract previously made with the affected parties (taxpayers) & nobly forego a beloved revenue source AS PROMISED, once said source is PAID for. This road has been paid for. It's time to 86 the toll already!

John Bishop
self
Houston, TX

I OPPOSE HB 2795. The State of Texas and TXDOT should use its massive budget surplus to repurchase private company ownership stake in SH 130, retire remaining debt and turn it into a freeway. The citizens of Texas have already bought and paid for it.

Beth Maynard
Self
Cisco, TX

I am opposed to HB 2795 which plans to extend the contract and allow the private foreign company to collect tolls for another 20 years, when the road is already paid for (its debt was wiped out in bankruptcy court in 2017). TxDOT's goal is to get a free direct connector to SH 130 on I-35 built by the private entity. Who benefits the most from a direct connect ramp onto a private toll road? The company making bank on drivers through tolls, exploiting the relentless congestion on I-35.

The solution here is to use some of TxDOT's \$15 billion windfall in new funds to pay-off the debt still owed on its portion of SH 130, buy back the private portion from the foreign company, and make it a freeway. That would immediately relieve significant traffic off I-35 through Austin. Please do not pass this bill out of Committee.

Kris Denlinger
self/homemaker
Cedar Hill, TX

I oppose this bill. It is wrong to extend a contract with a private foreign company to collect tolls for another 20 years when the road is already paid for. TxDOT does not need to get a free direct connector to SH 130 on I-35 built by the private entity, who benefits the most from a direct connect ramp. The solution here is to use some of TxDOT's \$15 billion windfall in new funds to pay-off the debt still owed on its portion of SH 130, buy back the private portion from the foreign company, and make it a freeway. That would immediately relieve significant traffic off I-35 through Austin.

Carolyn McClugage
Self- precinct chair 263
Leander, TX

Oppose

Sally Fiveash
self
Carrollton, TX

I oppose HB 2795. This contract should end. Funds can be allocated out of the TXDot funds to pay off the debt still owed on its portion of SH 130, buy back the private portion from the foreign company, and make SH 130 a freeway.

James Ransdell
Self
Seguin, TX

Please vote NO on this bill HB2795. We should not renew the contract with a private foreign company to collect tolls for another 20 years. It is already already paid for in bankruptcy court in 2017. Buy back the private portion of SH130 from the foreign company, and make it a freeway. That would immediately relieve significant traffic off I-35 through Austin.

Angela Smith
Fredericksburg Tea Party, Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I am AGAINST this bill. SH 130 is paid for (debt was wiped in 2017 bankruptcy court). Here is a solution to a possible problem: Use some of TxDOT's \$15B windfall in new funds to pay off the debt still owed on its portion of SH 130, buy back the private portion from the foreign company, and make it a freeway. That would immediately relieve significant traffic off I-35 through Austin. Otherwise, drivers will continue to be EXPLOITED in order to make \$\$\$ for a private company and their interests.

Mark Ramseur
Austin Chamber of Commerce
Austin, TX

As an Austin Chamber board member and executive committee member, I support HB 2795 adn the new connector roadway between I-35 and 130. This is a critical piece of infrastructure for our overall regions continued growth. Additionally, this bill allows for the roadway to be built without the public's tax money and it can be built much quicker than through the normal process. Again, I support this bill.

Thank you, Mark Ramseur

Randy King
Self, retired software engineer
Eules, TX

Honorable Members of the Texas House Committee on Transportation:

I am writing you to express my opposition to the following transportation bill scheduled for public testimony on March 29, 2023.

HB2795 – Amendment to CDA for SH 130 - This bill is a bad solution to the real problem of traffic congestion on I-35 through Austin. It appears to be a sop to politically connected, foreign-owned private interests at the expense of law-abiding taxpayers. Texans, as well as most Americans, are growing weary of government administrative and regulatory agencies cutting “sweetheart” deals with the industries they are charged to regulate. These sorts of agreements only benefit few well-connected cronies at the expense of ordinary citizens.

A better solution for taxpayers, who were already swindled in the 2016 bankruptcy of SH 130 Concession Company, is to use some of TxDOT’s \$15 Billion tax windfall to pay off its portion of debt on SH 130, buy back the foreign-owned private portion, and convert it into a true freeway.

Respectfully,
Randy M. King
Eules, TX 76039

Susan Lucas
Self- retired
Bryan, TX

Ease vote NO!!!! ON hb 2795

Sherry Eller
Self
Temple, TX

I oppose HB 2796. This bill seeks to amend the private toll contract on SH 130, to allow the private, foreign company to collect tolls for another 20 years, even though the road is already paid for! Please do not pass this bill out of committee.

Lynda Joan Somma
SELF
Houston, TX

I OPPOSE HB 2795 based on the use of PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP use per the design of this bill. I reject this kind of government and private business arrangement which is in opposition to the structure a Constitutional Republican form of government Texas has been guaranteed to have by the U. S. Constitution. HB 2795 must be KILLED in committee and not allowed to go forward. Legislation must be in keeping with the Rule of Law!

Angela Kelley, Ms.
Self. Human services retired
Palestine, TX

I oppose HB 2795 . It allows a private company to make money on drivers exploiting congestion on I 35.