

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Ways & Means  
For HB 3055

Compiled on: Monday, April 3, 2023 1:55 PM

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Hearing Date: April 3, 2023 10:00 AM

William Stalker  
self/dentist  
San Antonio, TX

I have lived on the river at concan in uvalde county for 16 years. I pay \$11,000 a year in taxes to uvalde county. During tourist season I see unsafe conditions constantly. Small children on county road 348 playing in the water at the low water crossing while young intoxicated drivers speed across the river to show off for their piers. Constant trespassing on private property banks of the frio by tourists. Tempers flair, fights break out. Fortunately guns have not been involved yet. Although there have been many threats as well as a knife attack several years ago on the 348 crossing.

I see Mr Kings bill as a means to keep some of the large amount of tax money that this tourist area generates in the area to increase law enforcement so that this income stream can continue, and the safety and welfare of both tourists and local residents can be maintained.

Gretchen Walter  
self ranch manager  
Houston, TX

We are suffering the consequences of unruly, lewd, disrespectful and often unlawful actions of masses of unmanaged tourists and residents who gather at public access points of rivers in Uvalde County. Fences are cut, children are exposed to unacceptable behavior, roadways are blocked, natural limestone river beds and rocks are graffitied with profane words and we need help.

There are not many places that allow 500+ people to gather without some form of law enforcement presence or security. If the river was an organized event, there would be responsibility to the organizer to ensure safe conditions. But the river is not an organized event. It belongs to the residents of Texas and the residents of Texas have no way to manage it.

The Hotel Tax that is collected brings in ample income to provide for a Safety and Security Program for Tourists. But the wording of the current law disallows using the funds in that manner.

We are asking that the Hotel Tax for Uvalde County be reworded to bring Uvalde County in line with other similar counties and allow the use of some of those funds to provide law enforcement dedicated to the rivers.

Jeffrey Kemp  
Kemp Family  
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 3055, which would allow for no more than 18% of the total HOT tax collections to be spent on law enforcement / security on river areas that are occupied largely by tourists. I have been a homeowner in Mountain Valley, Concan since 2007. During that time I have I have observed a remarkable increase in noise, litter and debauchery along the river. Many times I have to pull my grand children from the river to keep them from hearing foul language and seeing skimpy bathing suits. I understand that the Frio is a public river. However, my values and rights as a homeowner are being violated by transient weekenders. Please consider and pass HR 3055.

Jake Guerrero  
Self/Lodging Owner  
Concan, TX

To whom it may concern,

I want to express my support of this bill and I also hope that the House will take this bill into consideration for a vote and pass the bill. Passing this bill will be beneficial to our local land owners, business owners and visitors. It will also serve the local economy as a result. The main economic driver on the county level is tourism and passing this bill will fortify the local tourism industry that many locals depend. I appreciate your consideration and hope you will understand how much of a priority this is for the locals of Uvalde County. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jimmie Harton  
Representing SELF. Occupation is RETIRED.  
Concan, TX

I, Jimmie L. Harton am asking for your continued support for this bill which allows for Uvalde County to spend up to 18% of the county HOT tax collections on law enforcement and security.

Thank you for your effort in supporting this legislation that is so important to our community and area.

priscilla karam  
self/property owner  
Concan, TX

All Texans and adopted Texans love the Frio River. However, the Frio has become littered with glass beer bottles, cans & plastic bottles, paper, diapers, etc. in the River and its banks. Graffiti is appearing on the majestic rocks that beautify the riverbanks. Drunken tubers shout obscenities, disrespect not only property owners, but the families vacationing with their children! Boom boxes compete with the rap music blaring obscenities. The drunks have the nerve to come on private property, and curse at you when you politely ask them to leave. Girls are baring their breasts to the roar of the crowd. It has gotten out of control. Police protection is sparse from lack of funds to hire additional officers or pay for overtime. Private property owners have contributed to a fund to hire more officers, but we can't afford to continue something that should be funded by the State. The State says that they- and the public -own the Rivers. The State needs to protect its innocent respectable, law abiding citizens and their children that use the Frio. I -We-beg you to provide more funds to provide for more officers to patrol and protect our rapidly disintegrating beautiful Frio River. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Priscilla Karam

Clifford Parker  
Self  
Cuero, TX

I own a house and property near the Frio River in Uvalde County. More and more there are people who do not respect property and trespass onto my property. We need more law enforcement in the Concan area especially during the peak summer months.

Catherine May  
Property Owners-Uvalde County  
Boerne, TX

We own property in Uvalde County, at Concan, and have seen the need for more law enforcement, due to ever increasing visitors to the Frio River. It's is very important to owner's, as well as visitors, to have this presence, for the safety and protection of the people, and the environment. Please consider passing this legislation.

Michael Cummings  
Camp Riverview (on the Frio River)  
Concan, TX

As business owners on the Frio River (more than 1/2 mile of frontage), we are very interested in this proposed addition to safety and security on stretches of the river in northern Uvalde County. We have a large private, family-focused resort on the Frio between Magers Crossing on County Road 350 and Seven Bluff Crossing on County Road 348. We are constantly having to deal with unruly and inebriated folks who are staying at Garner State Park or the day-use pay lot at Magers Crossing. They disrupt the family environment on our property that we have spent 8 years reviving to how Camp Riverview used to be when Alfred Davenport and his wife owned it from 1960s - 1991. The disruptions on our property from these unwelcomed folks (who 99% of the time trespass onto our terra firma when they leave the riverbed include: urinating in public, exposing themselves, inappropriate amorous activities, profanities, drunk and disorderly behavior, theft and trespassing!

The idea and theory proposed with HB3055 is a step in the right direction. Our concerns would:

1. That money for these River Patrol type staff, funded through Uvalde County HOT, would not only be assigned to stretches of the Frio between Seven Bluff crossing at CR 348 and Neals Crossing at SR127.
2. How would the supervision and assignment of these patrol staff be managed, by whom / which organization?
3. How would pay for these staff be determined / which organization would be their hiring / firing authority?
4. What maximum amount of dollars would be used as a cap for the 18% of HOT earmarked for these patrol staffmembers?

Overall, we would ask that this HB3055 receive favorable review and a Yes vote, when the measure is presented for review and determination.

God, and Texas,

Michael Cummings  
Camp Riverview  
County Road 350  
Concan TX 78838