

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources

For HB 4119

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Hearing Date: April 4, 2023 8:00 AM

Beki Halpiin

self

Pflugerville, TX

This bill dilutes the safeguards put in place to protect communities near uranium mining locations and also dilutes the safeguards put in place to protect water quality for people who drink water from the aquifers and basins fed by runoff from the mining operations and also from water used in the mining process itself. Water used in the process of mining uranium and water that runs off the mining location is generally radioactive and contain other dangerous pollutants. This bill would allow people with old mining permits to just renew them with no allowance for people who might be harmed by the pollution to ask for contested case hearings. This bill weakens the protections for Texans put in place by previous legislation. We do not need to rush in to uranium mining by making it less safe for those who bear the brunt of the potential pollution. This bill should not pass. Thank you.

John Tate

self - retired

Austin, TX

I'm writing to oppose HB 4119, by Guillen. The bill would greatly weaken the environmental requirements in the current statute for uranium mining using injection wells, and make it much more difficult for affected parties to contest the granting of an authorization to conduct mining operations that would authorize increased contamination of groundwater and less-effective monitoring.

Uranium mining using injection wells has caused significant contamination of groundwater in the past, even under the current statute. Water is vital to life, and to every aspect of our economy in Texas, and its supply is decreasing as the need increases.

The United States, and Texas especially, needs to move aggressively to increase the energy efficiency of our economy, and to increase the use of renewable sources of energy such as wind and solar; and we do not need to continue using nuclear power. The latter is both expensive and dangerous. And Texas will benefit far more economically from developing renewable resources and technologies than from selling some uranium.

In short, this bill would endanger the health and well-being of residents in the area affected, contaminate a resource vital to the state, and take attention away from things we badly need to do, in order to accomplish something we do not need to do. Please vote against HB 4119.

Carolyn Croom, Ms.

Self

Austin, TX

HB 4119 would make it very unlikely that anyone could get a contested case hearing in a mining permit request which would allow a reduction of well-monitoring and allow increased groundwater contamination, and greatly weakens the present regulations on uranium mining. This mining has already caused groundwater contamination in the Eagle Ford Shale area of Texas, and a loosening of regulations would further contaminate a precious resource.

Texas needs to continue to expand renewable energy. It doesn't have the extreme problems that nuclear energy has. Nuclear energy is very, very expensive and is inherently unsafe, causing radioactive contamination, especially at the first step of mining and at the last step when the nuclear rods are no longer being used. There are no good solutions for permanently storing radioactive waste for the millennia required.

Our state needs to move away from nuclear energy and avoid further exposing its rural communities to dangerous uranium mining pollution and polluting our irreplaceable water resources. Please vote "No" on HB 4119.

Pat Bulla, Ms.

self; retired

Austin, TX

As I understand it, HB 4119 would weaken environmental requirements in the current statute for uranium mining in injection wells and make it harder for people to contest even more mining operations. This could result in more contamination of ground water. Water is becoming a more critical resource which we must protect. Please don't loosen regulations which could negatively affect any sources of critical water supplies. Vote "NO" on HB 4119.