

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources  
For HB 4299

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 1:33 PM

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Hearing Date: April 11, 2023 8:00 AM

Ben Medina, City Administrator

City of Rio Hondo

Rio Hondo, TX

Representative Tracy King, Chair

House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee

Re: Written Testimony in Support of H.B. 4299- Lopez

Dear Honorable King and Committee Members:

The City of Rio Hondo is a small city in the northeast part of Cameron County. The city has a population of 2,021 according to the 2020 Census. The City operates water and sewer plants and serve over eight hundred and fifty households (850) and fifteen businesses (15) and two industrial companies (2). The Rio Hondo School District serves a large catchment area outside the area the city provides water and sewer services to 1,603 students daily.

The City of Rio Hondo supports H.B. 4299 relating to the provision of financial assistance by the Texas Water Development Board for the development of certain projects in Economically Distressed Areas. The City of Rio Hondo has over 156 homes in need of a first-time sewer. In a recent nuisance study eight percent (80%) of the septic tanks were failing because of clay soils in this area. The study also revealed that ninety (90) homes in the City's extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) needed first-time sewer service. Funding for these projects cannot be afforded by the City of Rio Hondo or another small city with limited budgets. The provision in this bill to fund seventy percent (70%) of the project by the Texas Water Development Board would allow small rural cities to provide the essential water and sewer services to its residents and residents outside the boundaries of the city. This bill would assist many small rural communities throughout the Rio Grande Valley and the State of Texas

The City of Rio Hondo supports H.B. 4299 and all its provisions as written.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 4299 and you need additional information, please contact me at 956-748-2102 or email at [bmedina@riohondo.us](mailto:bmedina@riohondo.us).

Sincerely,

Gustavo Olivares, Mayor

City of Rio Hondo