HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Submitted to the Committee on Culture, Recreation & Tourism

For HB 2018

Compiled on: Thursday, March 27, 2025 12:23 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 27, 2025 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Matt Wagner, Executive Director
Texas Chapter The Wildlife Society
Austin, TX

We support HB2018. The Farm and Ranch Conservation Program is critical for conserving working lands for agriculture and wildlife management

Mary Pearl Meuth
Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Giddings, TX

Culture, Recreation and Tourism Committee,
Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments on House Bill 2018 today. My name is Mary Pearl Meuth, and I serve as Past President of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society—a professional organization representing 1,000 wildlife biologists, students, and conservation professionals across the state.
Our organization is in support of House Bill 2018. This bill strengthens the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program, helping to protect working lands and wild spaces that are essential to our state's rich biodiversity.
By expanding the criteria for conservation easements, HB 2018 directly benefits native wildlife habitat, supports water conservation, and safeguards open spaces that are increasingly under threat from fragmentation and development. These lands are vital not just for the species that call them home, but also for the future of Texas wildlife management.
Our wildlife students and early-career professionals rely on access to these conserved lands for research, habitat restoration projects, and hands-on experience—this bill ensures those opportunities remain available for the next generation of wildlife stewards.
In short, HB 2018 is a legacy bill. It invests in the long-term health of Texas' landscapes, provides tools to private landowners committed to conservation, and ensures that our wild things and wild places endure for generations to come.
We respectfully urge you to support this important piece of legislation.
Thank you