

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources
For HB 2712

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 12:50 PM

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Hearing Date: April 2, 2025 8:00 AM

Usman Mahmood
Bayou City Waterkeeper
Houston, TX

Bayou City Waterkeeper offers the following comments on HB 2712:

While we support mechanisms that help utilities fund necessary infrastructure improvements, we have concerns about HB 2712's approach to test year flexibility. The addition of future data, or combination of both historic and future data, could potentially burden ratepayers with costs for facilities not yet providing service.

We recommend adding consumer protections, such as rate adjustments, if facilities aren't completed as scheduled, and enhanced reporting requirements for utilities using future test years. We also urge the consideration of affordability impacts for all utilities, and particularly those serving economically distressed areas.

We urge that water infrastructure funding and financing mechanisms protect both system sustainability and customer affordability during water access and supply challenges.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please contact Guadalupe Fernandez at guadalupe@bayoucitywaterkeeper.org or Usman Mahmood at usman@bayoucitywaterkeeper.org with any questions.