

Dear Representative Murr

September 26, 2019

I am writing to request you make an official statement to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in support of FRIENDS HONDO CANYON for the denial of a pending Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES), permit # WQ0015713001 in Tarpley Texas. You should have received, and will continue to receive, letters from your constituents about this proposal and how it negatively impacts our land. Here are three reasons why this permit should be denied:

1. NO ONE WHO LIVES HERE wants this discharge permit to be approved. All seven counties in the Upper Nueces River Basin have passed resolutions (copies enclosed) in their respective County Commissioner's Courts to support legislation to prevent TCEQ from accepting applications for direct discharge of pollutants in this sensitive area.
2. It sets a major precedent. No one has ever been permitted to discharge pollutants into the Upper Nueces River Basin. This basin provides approximately 60% of the waters to the Edwards Aquifer. If this permit is approved, more permits will follow from other developers, placing the safety of the waters in this important aquifer at risk (background info enclosed).
3. It is not an economic hardship to change to a zero-discharge permit (either septic or Texas Land Application). There are 81 similar youth camps in the Texas Hill Country, and all but one uses a zero-discharge method. These camps remain profitable.

The TCEQ has completed their review and a modified draft permit was published July 16, 2019. The draft permit does not do enough to protect our waterways because it still permits wastewater discharge into Commissioner's Creek. FRIENDS OF HONDO CANYON is participating as much as we can under the administrative rules of the TCEQ. There was a Public Meeting on August 26, 2019; more than 250 concerned local and area citizens attended, including Kellie Early from your office. 538 official comments have been filed. Almost 15,000 people have signed a Change.Org Petition (<https://www.change.org/p/tceq-keep-spring-fed-creeks-in-texas-clean>). Our efforts have gained significant unpaid media attention throughout the region, along with our paid media campaign.

The public comment period has ended; however, you and other elected officials still have a chance to speak up. We need you to comment prior to the Executive Director releasing its Response to Comments. As our representative, we are asking that you speak out and ask TCEQ to deny this discharge permit.

We strongly believe this permit is wrong for Texas and wrong for the Texas Hill Country that you represent. Time is of the essence, and we respectfully ask that you respond to our group in writing to let us know if you'll join us in opposing this discharge permit. You signed onto HB 817 – please help us!

Sincerely

Margo Denke Griffin
Secretary/Treasurer
FRIENDS OF HONDO CANYON