

Sierra Club's

2019 Texas

Legislative Scorecard



Introduction

We are proud to introduce the Sierra Club's 2019 Texas Legislative Scorecard. In a session dominated by public education funding, flood control and budget battles, there was also a lot of work to be done on Sierra Club's priority issues. It's no secret that polluting special interests have overwhelming influence in the Texas Capitol, making it hard to pass good bills to reduce pollution that goes into our air, water, land, and bodies. We've gotten used to fighting tooth and nail for even common sense solutions that the overwhelming majority of Texans support, such as developing standards for aboveground petrochemical storage tanks. While there were still too many instances where there weren't enough lawmakers to stop bad bills, or pass good bills, there were more areas of bipartisanship and slightly better margins on losses than in sessions past.

The reasons for optimism are as follows:

First Termers

First-term legislators whom the Sierra Club endorsed in 2018 were excellent on environmental bills, for the most part. Reps. Goodwin, Ramos, Zwiener, and Rosenthal received perfect scores of 100%. The average score for all first-term Reps was 80.8%. The average score for non-Sierra Club endorsed legislators from 2018 was 30.5%. The average score for the entire House was still pretty pathetic at 47.3%.

The average score of the Senators we endorsed in 2018 was 85.6%, with first-term Sen. Nathan Johnson receiving a 100%. The average score for the entire 31-member Senate was 53.3%.

Standouts

We cannot say enough good things about State Rep. Erin Zwiener's first term. Her Hill Country constituents should remember her incredible efforts going to bat for them fighting against HB 3557, and - though it failed ultimately - writing a great amendment to HB 3557 intended to protect residents protesting pipelines that go through their own land. She also is credited with killing HB 3750, a bill that would have limited cities' ability to preserve water quality, on a point of order. When it comes to protecting the environment and its people, Rep. Zwiener gets it. There's no fear from us she will succumb to fossil fuel special interests.

We're also incredibly appreciative of the work of new members like Sen. Johnson, who attempted to get better standards on storage tanks like the ones that failed during Hurricane Harvey. We'd also like to acknowledge the efforts of Rep. John Turner, and some stalwarts like Sen. Rodriguez, who recently announced he will not return in 2021, Sen. Watson, as well as Reps. Anchia and Howard, who continued to fight for air quality and protection of public health.

Bipartisanship Still Exists... A Little

Perhaps it was the diminished power of the radical Texas Freedom Caucus, but there were signs of bipartisanship on a few key environmental issues, and we want to celebrate that when it happens. The Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP) has consistently had to fight to survive previous sessions, but thankfully, HB 3745, led by Rep. Cecil Bell, Jr., passed both chambers easily, after some last-minute negotiations between the House and Senate.

Members of the House and Senate on both sides of the aisle also worked cooperatively to pass major legislation — and funding — on flood control. In particular, the Sierra Club worked with our allies and Sens. Perry and Creighton, and Rep. Phelan, to ensure that both structural and non-structural flood control strategies would be eligible for funding. The Sierra Club appreciated the bipartisan efforts to ensure that natural systems are part of the solution to flood control.

Similarly, ensuring that revenue collected from the Sporting Goods Sales Tax actually gets appropriated for its intended uses (Texas Parks & Wildlife and the Texas Historical Commission), was something almost all lawmakers could get behind through SJR 24, which was carried by Rep. John Cyrier and Sen. Lois Kolkhorst.

The reasons to hold your cheers (and beers) are as follows:

Oil and Gas Still Saturates the #txlege

Where were the big bills on better regulations on oil and gas? New goals for energy efficiency and renewable energy? A climate bill? Standards on methane pollution or even a study of such standards? These issues were still non-starters because there is still too much influence from polluters at the legislature. This influence comes in two big ways: campaign contributions and oil and gas revenue. Texans who vote, or who follow politics at least casually, should recognize the first influence. Big polluter special interests contribute to political campaigns and get special access to, and preferential treatment from, lawmakers. There's also the presence of

dark money, which is harder to trace because of Citizens United, but has an incredibly negative effect on democratic values and representative government.

The second major area of influence is oil and gas revenue. The environmental community does not pay enough attention to this reality. If it does, it's usually in the context of a statement about how the Texas economy is too tied to the boom-and-bust cycle of the fracked gas industry, and how Texas needs to ensure more sustainable revenue streams so that state-funded programs can stay healthy even when drilling rig counts go down. However, if one industry pays so much in taxes (\$14 billion in 2018 according to the Texas Oil & Gas Association), that translates into a massive political influence imbalance. An *"I pay the bills so you do what I say"* dynamic between polluters and the Texas Legislature. While it may seem marginal when you consider how big the budget is (\$250 billion over two years), and it doesn't come close to the total revenue from our sales tax, the influence it gives Big Oil & Gas distorts the influence that should come from the people of Texas.

If we want our state's leaders to take the climate crisis more seriously, if we want them to protect communities that are most affected by pollution, if we want to truly transform our electric grid to one based on renewable energy, energy storage, and energy efficiency, we need to address these two undemocratic areas of influence.

The place to start is to hold lawmakers accountable, and ensure the good ones who we know act in the best interest of their constituents become the leaders. If you thought it took a lot of effort to elect the first-term champions, buckle up for 2020.

Methodology

This year, we decided to weight each vote based on two criteria: 1) how high were the stakes of the vote, and 2) how difficult was it to get votes? For example, in the case of HB 3557 (anti-protestor ALEC bill), the stakes were very high (9/10) because of the impact it would have on our First Amendment rights and its draconian punishments. It was also very difficult (9/10) to get votes because special interests like the Texas Oil & Gas Association were exerting their considerable influence to get the bill passed. For HB 3745 (TERP extension), the stakes were high (9/10) because TERP is a great program that needed to be extended, but because there was bi-partisan support for it, getting the votes for it was relatively easier (2/10).

In addition, we wanted to make adjustments of raw scores to account for the special effort made by some lawmakers in other areas. For example, Rep. John Turner voted against the Sierra Club position on HB 2771. However, we wanted to recognize the special effort he made to amend the bad bill to get a delay in implementation, so we credited him back the value of a No vote on that specific bill. We also tried to recognize some “partial credit” efforts. For example, Rep. Bill Zedler made a good effort to amend HB 2726. For that, we credited him half the value of the correct vote on that bill.

We also tried to recognize special circumstances, such as Rep. Donna Howard's absence during part of the session because of her husband's health. Rep. Howard has been an environmental champion for years and there's no reason to think she would have voted against the Sierra Club position if she were present for the votes she missed.

Otherwise, absences were generally counted against a lawmaker's final score. This may seem harsh for some stalwart pro-environment lawmakers, but at the end of the day, these were the Sierra Club's priorities and we need them to show up to vote. There are no doubt some scores that could be further adjusted. It is difficult to track circumstances related to each individual vote on 28 recorded votes across two chambers (181 members in all). We're open to hear requests for corrections!

Acknowledgements

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Key Votes

HB 2771

HB 2771, introduced by Rep. JM Lozano, Chair of the House Committee on Environmental Regulation, was a bill heavily supported by the oil and gas industry. In the Senate, Sen. Bryan Hughes sponsored the bill. The bill as introduced required the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to seek, by September 2020, authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to delegate wastewater discharge permits to the state agency for three kinds of permits involving wastewater from oil and gas production, including “produced” water resulting from the hydraulic fracturing process.

Our position

The Sierra Club opposed HB 2771 as introduced, arguing that the timeline for seeking delegation authority was too quick, and that there was no required cost-benefit analysis. In addition, a public process to help determine appropriate safety and water quality standards was not considered in the legislation. Thus, we believed it was premature to talk about wastewater discharge permits from fracked oil and gas wells even before the EPA had finished its own internal analysis about whether such discharge permits would be allowed. Under current law, oil and gas operators are required to seek permits from both the state, through the Railroad Commission, and the EPA, and in most cases, such permits for produced water have not been granted. **A vote for the bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.**

Special interests

Oil and gas, AECT, Texas Water Recycling Association

Outcome

The House, with significant backing from the oil and gas industry, approved the bill on a 94-47 vote on April 17. It passed the Senate 24-7, and was signed by Governor Abbott. One modest improvement was made to the bill by Rep. John Turner and Sen. Chuy Hinojosa, who got language in the bill to delay the timeline for requesting delegation authority to 2021. While Rep. Turner and Sen. Chuy Hinojosa ultimately voted for the bill - and against our position - we respect that they did it as part of a compromise to improve the legislation.

HB 3557

HB 3557, introduced by Rep. Chris Paddie, Chair of the House Committee on Energy Resources, was heavily backed by the pipeline industry, oil and gas, and the American Chemical Council. It creates heavy criminal and civil penalties for those who would damage, destroy, impede, or obstruct so-called “critical infrastructure” such as pipelines or refineries. The bill was born from the right-wing American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), and has been adopted in several other oil and gas producing states as a reaction to the frequent protests against existing and planned pipelines. Dubbed the “Criminalize Peaceful Protests” bill, the bill as introduced had draconian measures, including potential second-degree felonies for damaging, defacing, or destroying critical infrastructure and up to \$1 million in civil fines for organizations found to be helping to facilitate such activities. While the bill was made less unreasonable through the legislative process, Sierra Club still opposed the bill. **A vote for the bill on third reading was a vote against the Sierra Club position. A vote to table the Zwiener amendment was a vote against the Sierra Club position. A vote for the Conference Committee Report was a vote against the Sierra Club position.**

Special Interests

Pipeline industry, oil and gas, TAM, TML, TX Chemical Council, LCRA, BNSF Railway, TAB

Outcome

The bill passed the House on May 7 on a 90-51 vote, though some slight improvements were made to the bill. During the debate on the House floor, Rep. Erin Zwiener introduced a proposed amendment that would have provided protections for landowners that were protesting pipelines on their own land, but her proposed amendment was tabled on a 77-65 vote. After passing the House, the bill passed the Senate, where it was carried by Sen. Brian Birdwell, Chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. In the Senate, an amendment offered by Sen. Chuy Hinojosa improved the bill slightly. After passing the Senate, the House refused to concur with the Senate amendments so the Senate and House had to work out the differences. That new version of the bill - the Committee Conference Report (CCR) -- was then placed on the House floor and the House passed it on May 26 on a 97-49 vote. The CCR also passed the Senate on a 19-12 vote and was signed by the Governor.

HB 2545

HB 2545 by Rep. Ryan Guillen was a bill heavily backed by certain oil and gas companies that wanted to create certain tax incentives for companies that treated and discharged heavily saline oil and gas wastewater. The proposed tax breaks for such “desalination”

facilities were substantial even though the standards that would have been applied to the wastewater have yet to be developed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the costs and benefits of sending such treated wastewater downstream are unknown. In fact, the exact costs in lost tax revenue to the state could not be determined. Despite these unknowns, many believed it was preferable to provide tax incentives to encourage such reuse of salty water and wastewater as opposed to simply sending the wastewater down injection wells.

Our Position

A vote for the bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.

Special interests

Texas Desalination Association, Texas Alliance of Energy Producers, oil and gas, Texas Farm Bureau

Outcome

The bill passed the House of Representatives on May 3 on a 116-26 vote, but after being referred to the Senate Committee on Finance, it was unable to get out of committee, in large part because of the questions around the cost to the state of providing the incentives to desalination plants.

HB 2826

HB 2826 by Rep. Greg Bonnen requires that before any local political subdivision hires outside counsel, they must check with the Attorney General of Texas and get their approval to do so. Many cities, county governments, and nonprofit organizations that rely on the legal actions of local government for a variety of protections against bad corporate actors opposed this bill. While it did improve somewhat through the course of the legislative process, it still represented interference by state government in the actions of local democracies to protect citizens.

Our position

The Sierra Club made clear our opposition to the bill and opposed it both in committee and on the House floor. **A vote for the bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.**

Special interests

Construction industry, Texas Society of Architects, Texans for Lawsuit Reform, TAB, Texas Apartment Association, Insurance industry

Outcome

The bill passed the House on May 2 on a 103-39 vote. In the Senate, the bill was sponsored by Sen. Joan Huffman, passed on a 27-4 vote, and was signed by Governor Abbott on June 10.

HB 2726

HB 2726, authored by Rep. John Kuempel, allows a facility that submits an air pollution permit application to amend an existing permit to go ahead and construct the modification or expansion after the application has been submitted but before the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has issued the final permit. While the facility that began such a modification or expansion would do so at their own risk if the permit amendment were ultimately not granted, the bill puts communities at risk and also puts political pressure on the TCEQ to ultimately approve permit amendments since the facility modification would already be complete or under construction. In addition, if the permit amendment were the subject of a contested case hearing, allowing a facility to go ahead and construct a modification to their facility could impact negotiations between a community and the facility. One provision was added to the bill to prevent certain concrete batch plants from utilizing the provisions of the bill.

Our position

Sierra Club opposed the bill and spoke against it in both committees. **A vote for the bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.**

Special interests

Oil and gas, chemical industry, TAM

Outcome

HB 2726 passed the House on May 7 on a 102-46 vote. In the Senate the bill was sponsored by Sen. Brandon Creighton, and it passed the Senate on a 21-10 vote on May 20 with an amendment on the concrete batch plant issue. The House and Senate then passed a Conference Committee Report in the last days of the session, and the bill was signed by Governor Abbott.

HB 3745

HB 3745 by Rep. Cecil Bell, Jr. continues to fund the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) by extending the revenues (from taxes and fees) that support the program, and furthermore creates a trust fund outside the state treasury so that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality could spend that revenue as money came in, without having to seek appropriations from the state legislature every two years. In past years, the Texas Legislature has not actually appropriated the revenues for their intended purpose -- more than \$1.7 billion in TERP funds has sat in a state account without ever being spent.

Our position

Sierra Club supported HB 3745 because it would help the state lower air pollution and ozone pollution levels that impact public health through incentives to get cleaner cars, trucks, and construction equipment on our roads, including rebates for electric vehicles. **A vote for the bill was a vote for the Sierra Club position.**

Special interests

None registered as against.

Outcome

The bill was approved by the House but was changed substantially in the Senate, where Sen. Brian Birdwell sponsored it. However, when the House refused to concur with the Senate version, which only extended the revenues for two years and did not create a separate trust fund, the House and Senate reached a compromise. The revenues would continue until Texas meets federal ozone standards, and the funds will be put in a trust fund, but not until 2021. The Committee Report was approved by the House on May 26 on a 145-1 vote, and passed the Senate that same day on a 30-1 vote. The bill was signed by Governor Abbott.

SJR 24

For decades, state park advocates have complained that the state has failed to adequately invest in our state parks, wildlife reserves, and related lands and programs. This session, Sen. Lois Kolkhorst and Rep. John Cyrier, Chair of the House Committee on Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, took up both legislation related to funding state parks and historical sites, as well as a proposed constitutional amendment to dedicate revenue generated by the existing sales tax on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas State Historical Commission. SJR 24 created an amendment to the constitution which, when approved by

voters in November, permanently dedicated those revenues to the Parks and Wildlife and the Texas Historical Commission. Revenue from that tax would be allocated automatically to the two agencies beginning September 1, 2021.

Our position

Sierra Club supported SJR 24. **A vote for the bill was a vote for the Sierra Club position.**

Special interests

None registered as against.

Outcome

After initially passing SJR 24, the House added a clarifying amendment and passed the bill on a 143-1 vote on April 23. The Senate then concurred with the House version of SJR 24 on May 21 on a 30-1 vote. Governor Abbott signed the bill and voters approved the Constitutional Amendment in November.

SJR 79

Adequate access to funding for potable water, wastewater treatment service, and drainage service has been a complex and difficult issue for many Texans for decades. For 25 years, the State of Texas has helped hundreds of thousands of residents through the “Economically Distressed Areas Program” (EDAP), which provides low-interest loans, and in some cases access to grant funds, for such public projects. Unfortunately, the funding for the program had run out of money, and this legislative session, Sen. Eddie Lucio and Rep. Mary Gonzalez sponsored legislation and a constitutional amendment to bring funding back for future projects. SJR 79 is a constitutional amendment that would allow the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to issue additional general obligation bonds for the EDAP account of the Texas Water Development Fund II in amounts such that the aggregate principal amount of the bonds issued that are outstanding at any time does not exceed \$200 million. EDAP has been an important program that allows for TWDB to combine loan and grant programs to help certain areas of the state that are considered “economically distressed” to get access to water, wastewater treatment, drainage, and other basic water services. The final version of SJR 79 seeks to allow for an additional \$200 million to be authorized, though the exact timing and amounts of issuing bonds would be determined by the TWDB with legislative input.

Our position

The Sierra Club has a long history of supporting the EDAP program and adequate potable water and wastewater treatment for all Texas residents. Investing more bond funding in such a program makes sense. **A vote for SJR 79 was a vote for the Sierra Club position.**

Special interests

None registered as against.

Outcome

The constitutional amendment passed the Senate on a 19-12 vote on May 8 on second reading, before receiving final approval later that day on a 21-10 vote. After a slightly different version of the bill passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources on May 17, it passed the House on May 21 on a 114-27 vote. The new version of the bill then went back to the Senate, eventually passing on a 22-8 vote on May 25. Texas voters approved the constitutional amendment in November.

HB 1059

HB 1059 by Rep. Eddie Lucio III was a “study” bill that required the TCEQ to appoint a Green Storm water Infrastructure and Low Impact Development Report Group each fiscal biennium to prepare a report on the use of green storm water infrastructure and low impact development in this state. The intent of the bill was to highlight the existing use of “green storm water infrastructure” and low impact development to lower the risks of floods, but also assess how state and local government could learn best practices and implement such projects as the state develops flood infrastructure.

Our position

The Sierra Club supported this bill. **A vote for the bill was a vote for the Sierra Club position.**

Special interests

None registered as against.

Outcome

The bill easily passed the House on May 2 on a 120-19 vote before being sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Jose Rodriguez. The bill passed the full senate on May 22 on a 28-3 vote. Unfortunately, the measure was vetoed by Governor Greg Abbott, who argued that the bill and resulting working group and study were not necessary.

HB 798

HB 798 by Rep. Armando Walle was a simple but important bill that would amend the Health and Safety Code to require standard permit applications for a concrete plant that performs wet batching, dry batching, or central mixing to include a plot plan, including a distance scale, north arrow, and all property lines, emissions points, buildings, tanks and process vessels. By including this information, the application would allow the public to see where a proposed plant would be located in relation to nearby homes and businesses (including where the facility located its equipment, and its relation to roads and traffic). According to TCEQ, duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be accomplished by utilizing existing resources.

Our position

The Sierra Club supported the bill as a needed public transparency requirement to improve transparency and public participation. **A vote for the bill was a vote for the Sierra Club position.**

Special interests

Concrete/aggregate (registered on and against).

Outcome

The bill passed the House on a 92-47 vote on May 10, but was never sent to a committee in the Senate, killing the bill.

HB 907

HB 907 by Rep. Huberty was one of many bills designed to improve the regulation and enforcement of the aggregate and cement industry in Texas. Texas has an issue where many aggregate producers have operated without seeking the proper authorization from TCEQ. The bill as filed would increase fines on aggregate producers that failed to register with the TCEQ, increasing fines from \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$20,000 for each year an aggregate producer operated without proper registration. A maximum fine was set at \$50,000.

Our position

The Sierra Club supported HB 907 and other bills related to improved inspections and enforcement of aggregate production operators. **A vote for the bill was a vote for the Sierra Club position.**

Special interests

Concrete and aggregate industries (mixed for/against), TAB

Outcome

HB 907 passed the House on a 124-13 vote on May 10. In the Senate, the bill was sponsored by Sen. Brandon Creighton and was substituted in committee to include language from other filed bills. The new bill included not only larger fines but also required the TCEQ to conduct more frequent inspections of aggregate producers, including unannounced inspections for aggregate producers that had received notice of violations in previous years. The bill passed the Senate on May 20 on a 28-3 vote. The House concurred with the new version of the bill and Governor Abbott signed the bill.

HB 3750

HB 3750 by Rep. Kuempel, supported by development and agriculture special interests, was intended to limit the authority of a municipality to impose water quality regulations in the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction. The bill as filed would have prevented a municipality from imposing any cut-and-fill depth requirements or other water quality regulations in its extraterritorial jurisdiction unless the project was part of a contributing or recharge zone. The bill was improved slightly on the House floor by adding language that would allow such regulations if it was in the drainage basin of a river with exceptional or high quality water quality standards. Still, the bill was clearly designed to limit city powers.

Position

The Sierra Club opposed the bill because it undermines local democracy and the ability of cities to protect water resources. **A vote for the bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.**

Special interests

Developers, cattle industry, TAA, TAB

Outcome

Due in part to the author adding further protections for cities, the bill did pass the House 103-22 on May 10. However, once in the Senate, the bill was weakened by the addition of an amendment by Sen. Donna Campbell that would have specifically impacted San Antonio's ordinance to protect trees within its extraterritorial district. Still, the bill passed the Senate on a 28-3 vote. Fortunately, when it came back to the House with the new language, Rep. Erin Zwiener introduced a "point of order" that was sustained since the Senate amendments were not germane to the original bill. Because Rep. Zwiener's point of order occurred on May 24, the bill died since it was so late in the session.

SB 185

SB 185 by Sen. Borris Miles was an attempt to improve the safety and regulation of oil and gas wells by creating beefed up reporting requirements for wells involved in an accident or release. It would have prevented oil and gas companies that had not adequately cleaned up such a well from obtaining new permits, and creating a new alert system for residents living near an accidental release or similar incident. To get the bill out of committee and to the Senate floor, Sen. Miles changed the bill substantially to be much more modest, as it only required certain well owners to disclose when they were applying for a new oil and gas well permit if they had a nearby well that had leaked or had an accident that released product into the environment.

Position

This bill was supported by the Sierra Club. **A vote for the bill was a vote for the Sierra Club position.**

Special Interests

Major oil companies were clearly opposed to the legislation and the bill that passed out of committee was a much, much weaker version.

Outcome

The Senate approved SB 185 on May 15 on a 27-4 vote. However, it was referred on May 16 to the House Committee on Energy Resources and was never considered or taken up by that committee.

HB 720

HB 720 by Rep. Lyle Larson sets up a process whereby the TCEQ can approve applications to take the state's surface water and grant the right to private or public entities to use it for aquifer storage and recharge projects. While the bill does have language stating that water should not be granted if it would impact "environmental flows" needed to protect bays and estuaries and dependent species, the bill assumes that these flow needs are already well established. In addition the bill sets up the criteria for when state water that percolates into aquifer storage facilities becomes groundwater, and thus a private water property. Thus, there is the potential that surface water could ultimately change from "waters of the state" to a private groundwater resource. Finally, the bill allows those with a permit to develop a reservoir to be able to convert that to an aquifer storage facility. While it is unlikely that there will be major projects developed under the law because of both financial and technical issues, the law could impact the availability of water resources for downstream users and the environment.

Our position

Sierra Club knew that a bill carried by the Chairs of the Natural Resource and Water Committees would be difficult to stop, but because of our concerns about how state water could be converted to private water and because of our concerns about the potential to impact environmental flows, we opposed the legislation. **A vote for the bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.**

Special Interests

The bill had the support of major water special interests.

Outcome

The bill passed the House 135-3 on May 1. After being picked up by Sen. Charles Perry, Chair of the Senate Committee on Water Affairs, it passed out of committee and passed the Senate on a 25-6 vote on May 22, and was signed by Governor Abbott on June 10.

HB 3143 - Amendment 4

HB 3143 by Rep. Jim Murphy was a bill that extended Chapter 312 tax abatement agreements from 2019 to 2029. These property tax abatement agreements are agreements with local government that allow for property tax breaks for a period of time in return for agreements to invest in facilities that provide jobs and local economic development in communities. Many of these tax abatements have gone to renewable energy companies, while others have been for fossil fuel and manufacturing industries. The bill not only extended the program for another 10 years, but it included some important transparency requirements in terms of

providing the public with information and requirements on holding public meetings. After being approved in the House, Senate sponsor, Sen. Royce West, got the bill through committee and onto the Senate floor. During the floor debate on May 20, Sen. Bob Hall introduced an amendment that would have specifically stripped the ability of many renewable energy companies to be able to access the tax abatement agreements, potentially slowing the development of wind and solar power.

Our position

The Sierra Club neither supported nor opposed the extension of the tax abatement agreements under Chapter 312. However, we did make it clear that we opposed any provisions that would specifically exclude renewable energy from having the same access to the tax breaks as the fossil fuel industry. Thus, we opposed the amendment offered by Sen. Hall. **A vote for the amendment was a vote against the Sierra Club position.**

Special interests

The Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) made this one of their two major efforts on renewable energy this session and they were backed by oil and gas money.

Outcome

The attempt to strip HB 3143 of its pro-renewable policy by Sen. Hall failed on a 21-10 vote. The bill then passed the Senate and was signed into law by the Governor.

SB 2232

SB 2232 by Sen. Kelly Hancock was a “study” bill that unfortunately was designed in such a way that it could have led to changes that would have directly led to measures that would have increased the cost of, and therefore lowered the potential development of, renewable energy and specifically wind power. The bill was reportedly to study the impact of the federal production tax incentives, which help spur wind development in Texas, but then it ordered the Public Utility Commission and ERCOT, the grid operator for most of Texas, to take any steps to counteract the impact of those incentives. That meant the bill could have been used by fossil fuel interests to enact changes to slow down the growth of wind energy. Importantly, the bill would only have studied renewable energy incentives and not the vast array of federal and state incentives that favor fossil fuels, meaning it was a bill designed to target renewable energy.

Our Position

We actively opposed the bill in both the Senate and House and were pleased that it did not get out of the House Committee on State Affairs. **A vote for the bill was a vote against the Sierra Club position.**

Special Interests

While this was the brainchild of TPPF, some other special interests, like the Texas Association of Manufacturers, were supporting it as a way to argue that wind subsidies could impact electricity pricing. Many chemical and refinery interests also supported the bill, though their support was lukewarm.

Outcome

While the bill did pass the Senate on a 23-8 vote on April 24, it did not pass the House Committee on State Affairs after being sponsored by Rep. Phil King.

House Ranking

Texas House				
District	First Name	Last Name	Initial Rank	Adjusted Rank
47	Vikki	Goodwin	100.00%	100.00%
137	Gene	Wu	100.00%	100.00%
104	Jessica	Gonzales	100.00%	100.00%
45	Erin	Zwiener	94.67%	100.00%
102	Ana-Maria	Ramos	91.33%	100.00%
135	John	Rosenthal	90.00%	100.00%
123	Diego	Bernal	87.33%	100.00%
48	Donna	Howard	80.00%	100.00%
49	Gina	Hinojosa	92.67%	92.67%
77	Evelina	Ortega	92.67%	92.67%
103	Rafael	Anchia	92.67%	92.67%
50	Celia	Israel	87.33%	92.66%
40	Terry	Canales	90.00%	90.00%
52	James	Talarico	90.00%	90.00%
109	Carl	Sherman, Jr.	90.00%	90.00%
27	Ron	Reynolds	82.67%	90.00%
107	Victoria	Neave	82.67%	90.00%
101	Chris	Turner	89.33%	89.33%
114	John	Turner	73.33%	85.33%
105	Terry	Meza	84.67%	84.67%
148	Jessica	Farrar	84.67%	84.67%
75	Mary	Gonzalez	84.00%	84.00%
146	Shawn	Thierry	83.33%	83.33%

110	Toni	Rose	82.67%	82.67%
111	Yvonne	Davis	82.67%	82.67%
113	Rhetta	Andrews Bowers	82.67%	82.67%
115	Julie E.	Johnson	82.67%	82.67%
136	John	Bucy III	82.67%	82.67%
51	Eddie	Rodriguez	77.33%	82.66%
78	Joseph	Moody	70.00%	82.00%
145	Christina	Morales	80.67%	80.67%
46	Sheryl	Cole	79.33%	79.33%
116	Trey	Martinez Fischer	77.33%	77.33%
139	Jarvis D.	Johnson	77.33%	77.33%
143	Ana	Hernandez	77.33%	77.33%
65	Michelle	Beckley	75.33%	75.33%
79	Art	Fierro	75.33%	75.33%
131	Alma	Allen	68.00%	75.33%
76	Cesar	Blanco	71.33%	73.50%
141	Senfronia	Thompson	73.33%	73.33%
37	Alex	Dominguez	73.33%	73.33%
95	Nicole	Collier	72.00%	72.00%
120	Barbara	Gervin-Hawkins	72.00%	72.00%
124	Ina	Minjarez	72.00%	72.00%
22	Joe	Deshotel	60.00%	72.00%
140	Armando	Walle	69.33%	71.33%
30	Geanie	Morrison	63.33%	70.33%
30	Ramon	Romero, Jr.	63.33%	70.33%
74	Poncho	Nevarez	65.33%	69.33%
149	Hubert	Vo	65.33%	65.33%
144	Mary Ann	Perez	49.33%	58.66%

38	Eddie	Lucio III	54.00%	57.33%
142	Harold	Dutton, Jr.	56.00%	56.00%
41	Robert	Guerra	50.67%	56.00%
125	Ray	Lopez	53.33%	53.33%
119	Roland	Gutierrez	50.00%	50.00%
73	Kyle	Biedermann	37.33%	49.33%
39	Armando	Martinez	46.00%	46.00%
36	Sergio	Munoz, Jr.	44.00%	44.00%
118	Leo	Pacheco	43.33%	43.33%
147	Garnet	Coleman	41.33%	41.33%
15	Steve	Toth	41.33%	41.33%
31	Ryan	Guillen	38.67%	38.67%
117	Philip	Cortez	38.67%	38.67%
42	Richard	Raymond	38.67%	38.67%
19	James	White	38.67%	38.67%
85	Phil	Stephenson	38.67%	38.67%
132	Gina	Calanni	38.67%	38.67%
96	Bill	Zedler	34.67%	36.84%
56	Charles	Anderson	36.67%	36.67%
3	Cecil	Bell, Jr.	28.67%	36.67%
34	Abel	Herrero	35.33%	35.33%
53	Andrew	Murr	35.33%	35.33%
2	Dan	Flynn	32.00%	32.00%
122	Lyle	Larson	28.67%	32.00%
21	Dade	Phelan	26.67%	31.67%
35	Oscar	Longoria	31.33%	31.33%
80	Tracy	King	31.33%	31.33%
66	Matt	Shaheen	31.33%	31.33%

43	J.M.	Lozano	28.67%	30.67%
29	Ed	Thompson	22.67%	30.67%
86	John	Smithee	30.00%	30.00%
67	Jeff	Leach	30.00%	30.00%
127	Dan	Huberty	24.67%	30.00%
150	Valoree	Swanson	29.33%	29.33%
1	Gary	VanDeaver	28.67%	28.67%
12	Kyle	Kacal	28.67%	28.67%
14	John	Raney	28.67%	28.67%
71	Stan	Lambert	28.67%	28.67%
83	Dustin	Burrows	28.67%	28.67%
88	Ken	King	28.67%	28.67%
108	Morgan	Meyer	28.67%	28.67%
112	Angie	Chen Button	28.67%	28.67%
130	Tom	Oliverson	28.67%	28.67%
84	John	Frullo	23.33%	28.66%
7	Jay	Dean	26.67%	26.67%
9	Chris	Paddie	26.67%	26.67%
16	Will	Metcalf	26.67%	26.67%
32	Todd	Hunter	26.67%	26.67%
44	John	Kuempel	26.67%	26.67%
54	Brad	Buckley	26.67%	26.67%
55	Hugh	Shine	26.67%	26.67%
58	DeWayne	Burns	26.67%	26.67%
69	James	Frank	26.67%	26.67%
72	Drew	Darby	26.67%	26.67%
82	Tom	Craddick	26.67%	26.67%
87	Four	Price	26.67%	26.67%

99	Charlie	Geren	26.67%	26.67%
121	Steve	Allison	26.67%	26.67%
20	Terry	Wilson	19.33%	26.66%
17	John	Cyrier	19.33%	25.33%
4	Keith	Bell	24.67%	24.67%
98	Giovanni	Capriglione	24.67%	24.67%
133	Jim	Murphy	24.67%	24.67%
6	Matt	Schaefer	24.00%	24.00%
23	Mayes	Middleton	24.00%	24.00%
100	Eric	Johnson	14.67%	24.00%
8	Cody	Harris	23.33%	23.33%
13	Ben	Leman	23.33%	23.33%
24	Greg	Bonnen	23.33%	23.33%
26	Rick	Miller	23.33%	23.33%
57	Trent	Ashby	23.33%	23.33%
28	John	Zerwas	22.67%	22.67%
10	John	Wray	22.67%	22.67%
61	Phil	King	22.67%	22.67%
63	Tan	Parker	22.67%	22.67%
81	Brooks	Landgraf	22.67%	22.67%
91	Stephanie	Klick	22.67%	22.67%
129	Dennis	Paul	22.67%	22.67%
11	Travis	Clardy	21.33%	21.33%
33	Justin	Holland	21.33%	21.33%
59	J.D.	Sheffield	21.33%	21.33%
60	Mike	Lang	21.33%	21.33%
126	Sam E.	Harless	21.33%	21.33%
138	Dwayne	Bohac	20.67%	20.67%

68	Drew	Springer	20.00%	20.00%
62	Reggie	Smith	19.33%	19.33%
64	Lynn	Stucky	19.33%	19.33%
97	Craig	Goldman	19.33%	19.33%
94	Tony	Tinderholt	18.00%	18.00%
70	Scott	Sanford	17.33%	17.33%
89	Candy	Noble	17.33%	17.33%
18	Ernest	Bailes	15.33%	15.33%
5	Cole	Hefner	14.00%	14.00%
93	Matt	Krause	14.00%	14.00%
106	Jared	Patterson	14.00%	14.00%
128	Briscoe	Cain	14.00%	14.00%
134	Sarah	Davis	13.33%	13.33%
92	Jonathan	Stickland	10.00%	10.00%

House Adjustments

House Adjustments					
District	First	Last	Adjust	Bill	Notes
3	Cecil	Bell	8	HB 3745	Bill author.
17	John	Cyrier	6	SJR 24	Deserves credit for working it all out.
20	Terry	Wilson	7	HB 798, HB 2726	Changed votes to be in line with SC position.
21	Dade	Phelan	5	NA	For support of non-structural, nature-based flood control.
22	Joe	Deshotel	12	HB 3557	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
27	Ron	Reynolds	7.33	HB 3750	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
29	Ed	Thompson	8	HB 3745	Support for the bill.
30	Ramon	Romero, Jr.	7	HB 3557	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
38	Eddie	Lucio III	3.33	HB 1059	Bill author.
41	Robert	Guerra	5.33	HB 2826	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
43	JM	Lozano	2	HB 798	Special support for this bill.
45	Erin	Zwiener	5.33	HB 2826	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
48	Donna	Howard	20	HB 2826	Missed 3 votes under forgivable circumstances. Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
50	Celia	Israel	5.33	HB 2826	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
51	Eddie	Rodriguez	5.33	HB 2826	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
73	Kyle	Biedermann	12	HB 3557	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
74	Mary	Gonzalez	4	SJR 79	Bill author.
76	Cesar	Blanco	2.17	HB 2726	Partial credit for opposition in committee.
78	Joe	Moody	12	HB 3557	Worked with bill author to make HB 3557 less bad. Made special effort to fight HB 3557 CCR.
84	John	Fruzzo	5.33	HB 907	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
96	Bill	Zedler	2.17	HB 2726	Partial credit for good effort to amend bill.

100	Eric	Johnson	9.33	HB 2771	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
102	Ana Maria	Ramos	8.67	HB 1059, HB 907	Changed votes to be in line with SC position.
107	Victoria	Neave	7.33	HB 3750	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
114	John	Turner	12.00	HB 2771, HB 2726	Voted Y on HB 2771 but worked to get 1yr delay. Partial credit for opposing HB 2726 in committee.
122	Lyle	Larson	3.33	HB 1059	Special support for this bill.
123	Diego	Bernal	12.67	HB 2826, HB 3750	Changed votes to be in line with SC position.
127	Dan	Huberty	5.33	HB 907	Bill author.
131	Alma	Allen	7.33	HB 3750	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.
135	Jon	Rosenthal	10	HB 2545	Worked hard to get this bill amended.
140	Armando	Walle	2	HB 798	Bill author.
144	Mary Ann	Perez	9.33	HB 2771	Changed vote to be in line with SC position.

House Votes

*Weights were assigned as a percentage of 100.

If a legislator changed their vote in the record, we counted the correction as their official vote. These are marked as either a Y(c) or an N(c). “A” indicates a legislator was absent for a vote, and with few exceptions, these were counted the same as a vote against the Sierra Club position. “NV” indicates a legislator was present but did not vote, and was also counted as a vote against the Sierra Club position.

			House Votes													
District			9.33*	12	12	10	10	5.33	5.33	8	6	4	3.33	2	5.33	7.33
			HB 2771	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 2545	HB 2826	HB 2726	HB 3745	SJR 24	SJR 79	HB 1059	HB 798	HB 907	HB 3750
1	Gary	VanDeaver	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Dan	Flynn	N	Y (c)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
3	Cecil	Bell, Jr.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Keith	Bell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N (c)	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Cole	Hefner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
6	Matt	Schaefer	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
7	Jay	Dean	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
8	Cody	Harris	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
9	Chris	Paddie	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
10	John	Wray	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
11	Travis	Clardy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
12	Kyle	Kacal	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
13	Ben	Leman	Y	Y	Y	Y (c)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N (c)	N	Y	Y
14	John	Raney	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
15	Steve	Toth	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

			House Votes													
			HB 2771	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 2545	HB 2826	HB 2726	HB 3745	SJR 24	SJR 79	HB 1059	HB 798	HB 907	HB 3750
District			9.33*	12	12	10	10	5.33	5.33	8	6	4	3.33	2	5.33	7.33
16	Will	Metcalf	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
17	John	Cyrier	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
18	Ernest	Bailes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	N	A	Y
19	James	White	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
20	Terry	Wilson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N (c)	Y	Y	N	A	Y (c)	Y	Y
21	Dade	Phelan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
22	Joe	Deshotel	N	N (c)	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
23	Mayes	Middleton	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y (c)	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
24	Greg	Bonnen	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y
25	Dennis	Bonnen	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV	NV
26	Rick	Miller	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y	Y
27	Ron	Reynolds	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N (c)
28	John	Zerwas	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
29	Ed	Thompson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
30	Ramon	Romero, Jr.	N	N (c)	Y (c)	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
30	Geanie	Morrison	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
31	Ryan	Guillen	Y	A	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
32	Todd	Hunter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
33	Justin	Holland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A	Y	Y	Y
34	Abel	Herrero	A	Y	Y	N	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y
35	Oscar	Longoria	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y
36	Sergio	Munoz, Jr.	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
37	Alex	Dominguez	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
38	Eddie	Lucio III	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	N
39	Armando	Martinez	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

			House Votes													
			HB 2771	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 2545	HB 2826	HB 2726	HB 3745	SJR 24	SJR 79	HB 1059	HB 798	HB 907	HB 3750
District			9.33*	12	12	10	10	5.33	5.33	8	6	4	3.33	2	5.33	7.33
40	Terry	Canales	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
41	Robert	Guerra	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N (c)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
42	Richard	Raymond	A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
43	J.M.	Lozano	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
44	John	Kuempel	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
45	Erin	Zwiener	N	N	N	N	N	N (c)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
46	Sheryl	Cole	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	N
47	Vikki	Goodwin	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
48	Donna	Howard	N	N	N	N	N	N (c)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A
49	Gina	Hinojosa	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
50	Celia	Israel	N	N	N	N	N	N (c)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
51	Eddie	Rodriguez	N	N	N	N	Y	N (c)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
52	James	Talarico	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
53	Andrew	Murr	Y	Y	Y	N	Y (c)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
54	Brad	Buckley	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
55	Hugh	Shine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
56	Charles	Anderson	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
57	Trent	Ashby	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
58	DeWayne	Burns	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
59	J.D.	Sheffield	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A
60	Mike	Lang	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y (c)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
61	Phil	King	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y (c)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
62	Reggie	Smith	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	N	Y	Y
63	Tan	Parker	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N (c)	Y	N (c)	Y	Y
64	Lynn	Stucky	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N (c)	N	N	Y	Y

			House Votes													
			HB 2771	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 2545	HB 2826	HB 2726	HB 3745	SJR 24	SJR 79	HB 1059	HB 798	HB 907	HB 3750
District			9.33*	12	12	10	10	5.33	5.33	8	6	4	3.33	2	5.33	7.33
65	Michelle	Beckley	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A
66	Matt	Shaheen	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
67	Jeff	Leach	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A
68	Drew	Springer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y
69	James	Frank	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y (c)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
70	Scott	Sanford	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	A	A
71	Stan	Lambert	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
72	Drew	Darby	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
73	Kyle	Biedermann	Y	N (c)	Y	Y	Y	Y (c)	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
74	Poncho	Nevarez	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A
75	Mary	Gonzalez	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
76	Cesar	Blanco	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
77	Evelina	Ortega	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
78	Joseph	Moody	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
79	Art	Fierro	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
80	Tracy	King	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A
81	Brooks	Landgraf	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N (c)	Y	N	Y	Y
82	Tom	Craddick	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N (c)	Y	Y
83	Dustin	Burrows	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
84	John	Frullo	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y (c)	Y (c)
85	Phil	Stephenson	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
86	John	Smithee	N	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	N	Y	A
87	Four	Price	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
88	Ken	King	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
89	Candy	Noble	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N (c)	Y	N	N	Y

			House Votes													
District			HB 2771	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 2545	HB 2826	HB 2726	HB 3745	SJR 24	SJR 79	HB 1059	HB 798	HB 907	HB 3750
			9.33*	12	12	10	10	5.33	5.33	8	6	4	3.33	2	5.33	7.33
91	Stephanie	Klick	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
92	Jonathan	Stickland	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y (c)	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
93	Matt	Krause	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
94	Tony	Tinderholt	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	A	N	N	N	N	Y (c)
95	Nicole	Collier	N	N	N	N	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
96	Bill	Zedler	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
97	Craig	Goldman	NV	Y	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NV	N	N	Y	Y
98	Giovanni	Capriglione	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
99	Charlie	Geren	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
100	Eric	Johnson	N (c)	A	A	A	A	N	A	A	Y	A	Y	A	A	A
101	Chris	Turner	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
102	Ana-Maria	Ramos	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y (c)	Y	Y (c)	N
103	Rafael	Anchia	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
104	Jessica	Gonzales	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
105	Terry	Meza	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N
106	Jared	Patterson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
107	Victoria	Neave	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N (c)
108	Morgan	Meyer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
109	Carl	Sherman, Jr.	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
110	Toni	Rose	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
111	Yvonne	Davis	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
112	Angie	Chen Button	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
113	Rhett	Bowers	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
114	John	Turner	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
115	Julie E.	Johnson	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A

			House Votes													
			HB 2771	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 2545	HB 2826	HB 2726	HB 3745	SJR 24	SJR 79	HB 1059	HB 798	HB 907	HB 3750
District			9.33*	12	12	10	10	5.33	5.33	8	6	4	3.33	2	5.33	7.33
		Martinez														
116	Trey	Fischer	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
117	Philip	Cortez	Y (c)	Y (c)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
118	Leo	Pacheco	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
119	Roland	Gutierrez	N	N	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
		Gervin-														
120	Barbara	Hawkins	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
121	Steve	Allison	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
122	Lyle	Larson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
123	Diego	Bernal	N	N	N	N	N	N (c)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N (c)
124	Ina	Minjarez	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
125	Ray	Lopez	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
126	Sam E.	Harless	Y	Y	Y	Y (c)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A
127	Dan	Huberty	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
128	Briscoe	Cain	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y
129	Dennis	Paul	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
130	Tom	Oliverson	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y
131	Alma	Allen	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N (c)
132	Gina	Calanni	Y	Y (c)	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
133	Jim	Murphy	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
134	Sarah	Davis	Y (c)	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	A	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y (c)
135	John	Rosenthal	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
136	John	Bucy III	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
137	Gene	Wu	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
138	Dwayne	Bohac	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A

			House Votes													
			HB 2771	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 3557	HB 2545	HB 2826	HB 2726	HB 3745	SJR 24	SJR 79	HB 1059	HB 798	HB 907	HB 3750
District			9.33*	12	12	10	10	5.33	5.33	8	6	4	3.33	2	5.33	7.33
139	Jarvis D.	Johnson	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
140	Armando	Walle	N	N	Y	N	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	N
141	Senfronia	Thompson	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
142	Harold	Dutton, Jr.	Y	A	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
143	Ana	Hernandez	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
144	Mary Ann	Perez	N (c)	Y (c)	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
145	Christina	Morales	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
146	Shawn	Thierry	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
147	Garnet	Coleman	A	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	A	Y
148	Jessica	Farrar	N	N	N	N	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
149	Hubert	Vo	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
150	Valoree	Swanson	Y	Y (c)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y

Senate Ranking

Texas Senate

District	First Name	Last Name	Initial Rank	Adjusted Rank
14	Kirk	Watson	100.00%	100.00%
29	Jose	Rodriguez	94.52%	100.00%
16	Nathan	Johnson	92.47%	100.00%
21	Judith	Zaffirini	88.36%	88.36%
13	Borris	Miles	78.77%	85.62%
26	Jose	Menendez	78.77%	85.10%
15	John	Whitmire	78.77%	78.77%
20	Juan	Hinojosa	60.96%	75.00%
6	Carol	Alvarado	69.18%	69.18%
23	Royce	West	60.96%	69.18%
27	Eddie	Lucio	60.96%	67.12%
10	Beverly	Powell	63.70%	63.70%
18	Lois	Kolkhorst	43.15%	53.43%
28	Charles	Perry	43.15%	51.57%
19	Peter	Flores	43.15%	49.31%
3	Robert	Nichols	43.15%	49.31%
12	Jane	Nelson	28.77%	49.31%
22	Brian	Birdwell	36.99%	45.21%
17	Joan	Huffman	43.15%	43.15%
11	Larry	Taylor	43.15%	43.15%
9	Kelly	Hancock	42.47%	42.47%
24	Dawn	Buckingham	34.93%	34.93%
4	Brandon	Creighton	21.92%	31.03%
31	Kel	Seliger	30.14%	30.14%

25	Donna	Campbell	28.77%	28.77%
8	Angela	Paxton	28.77%	28.77%
5	Charles	Schwertner	28.77%	28.77%
7	Paul	Bettencourt	21.92%	21.92%
1	Bryan	Hughes	21.23%	21.23%
30	Pat	Fallon	14.38%	14.38%
2	Bob	Hall	13.01%	13.01%

Senate Adjustments

Senate Adjustments					
District	First	Last	Adjust	Bill(s)	Notes
3	Robert	Nichols	6.16	SJR 79	Special support for the bill.
4	Brandon	Creighton	4.11	HB 907	Senate sponsor of the bill; For support of non-structural, nature-based flood control.
12	Jane	Nelson	20.54	HB 3745, SJR 24, SJR 79	Acknowledging critical approval of HB 3745; helped SJRs 24 and 79.
13	Boris	Miles	6.85	SB 185	Bill author.
16	Nathan	Johnson	7.53	HB 2771, HB 720, SB 1446	Helped make bills less bad, filed good bill on storage tank standards.
18	Lois	Kolkhorst	10.28	SJR 24, HB 720	Helped make SJR 24 a priority; Pushed back on HB 720 in committee.
19	Pete	Flores	6.16	SJR 24	Helped make the bill a priority.
20	Juan "Chuy"	Hinojosa	14.04	HB 2771, HB 3557, SJR 79	Helped make bills less bad. Special support for SJR 79.
22	Brian	Birdwell	8.22	HB 3745	Accepting of compromise on bill.
23	Royce	West	8.22	HB 3143	Worked hard to keep bill clean.
26	Jose	Menendez	6.33	HB 3557	Tried to make the bill less bad.
27	Eddie	Lucio	6.16	SJR 79	Special effort to get compromise passed.
28	Charles	Perry	3.42	HB 1059	Special support for the bill; For support of non-structural, nature-based flood control.
29	Jose	Rodriguez	5.48	SJR 79	Special support for SJR 79; Sponsor of HB 1059

Senate Votes

*Weights were assigned as a percentage of 100.

If a legislator changed their vote in the record, we counted the correction as their official vote. These are marked as either a Y(c) or an N(c). "A" indicates a legislator was absent for a vote, and with few exceptions, these were counted the same as a vote against the Sierra Club position. "NV" indicates a legislator was present but did not vote, and was also counted as a vote against the Sierra Club position.

			Senate Votes													
			HB 2771	HB 3557	SB 185	HB 2826	HB 2726	HB 3745	SJR 24	SJR 79	HB 720	HB 1059	HB 907	HB 3750	HB 3143	SB 2232
District			9.59*	12.33	6.85	5.48	5.48	8.22	6.16	6.16	8.22	3.42	4.11	7.53	8.22	8.22
1	Bryan	Hughes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	A	Y
2	Bob	Hall	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
3	Robert	Nichols	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
4	Brandon	Creighton	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Charles	Schwertner	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	Carol	Alvarado	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
7	Paul	Bettencourt	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
8	Angela	Paxton	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
9	Kelly	Hancock	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
10	Beverly	Powell	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
11	Larry	Taylor	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
12	Jane	Nelson	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
13	Borris	Miles	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
14	Kirk	Watson	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N

15	John	Whitmire	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
16	Nathan	Johnson	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
17	Joan	Huffman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
18	Lois	Kolkhorst	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
19	Peter	Flores	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
20	Juan	Hinojosa	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
21	Judith	Zaffirini	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
22	Brian	Birdwell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
23	Royce	West	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
24	Dawn	Buckingham	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
25	Donna	Campbell	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
26	Jose	Menendez	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
27	Eddie	Lucio	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
28	Charles	Perry	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
29	Jose	Rodriguez	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
30	Pat	Fallon	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
31	Kel	Seliger	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y