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**Cameron County Sells Out Valley Communities, Approves Massive Tax Break for NextDecade's Rio Grande LNG Project**

**BROWNSVILLE, TX** -- On Tuesday morning, community members from the Lower Rio Grande Valley Sierra Club voiced strong opposition over NextDecade's request for an outstanding 76% tax break for the Rio Grande LNG project from Cameron County. County commissioners approved the subsidy on a 4 -1 vote.

NextDecade's liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminal would take up 1,000 acres of the Brownsville ship channel and be located next to Bahia Grande, the largest restoration project in North America. The proposed project would pave over untouched greenfield lands and be the largest single-source contributor of air pollution in Cameron County.

***In response to Cameron County's approval of a 76% tax break for the Rio Grande LNG project, Texas Sierra Club's Organizer Rebekah Hinojosa released the following statement:***

"Yesterday, Cameron County sold out the Laguna Madre communities, South Padre Island, Port Isabel, Laguna Vista, Laguna Heights, and Long Island Village, that have all passed resolutions opposing LNG. We needed the county to look past the Rio Grande LNG sales pitch and hear out their constituents, but they didn't. The natural gas for the terminal will come from fracking which damages Texas land, pollutes water and air, and causes illness in surrounding communities. If Rio Grande LNG is permitted, it will irrevocably scar the Rio Grande Valley's coastline with massive tanker ships, ground flares, and miles of pipelines, turning us into an industrial town just like the rest of the Texas coast.

The commissioners said they approved the tax breaks to bring us jobs, but the reality is that progress and jobs do not have to come at the expense of community health. By approving the tax break, the commission is voting to trap Cameron County to the polluting fossil fuel industry when other areas of Texas are transitioning to clean energy. The total greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas are nearly identical to coal. Our community will not stop organizing. The people of Cameron County will continue to push back during every phase of the regulatory process."

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**About Sierra Club**

The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 2.4 million members and supporters. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).