



# SIERRA CLUB

## LONE STAR CHAPTER

### **The Sierra Club Strongly Supports SB 1648 and SJR 74 (Walle): Time to Invest in New State Parks for A Real Change**

Texas is growing in leaps and bounds, and our resources dedicated to natural areas for family recreation are not keeping up. While we as a state have finally done well in recent times in providing resources for existing state parks, we have neglected the need to expand those parks, or acquire new lands to help Texans hike, fish, camp, boat, bird, hunt and enjoy time in natural surroundings. Too often, rural communities and urban areas do not have access to these parks, and our children are growing up without the connection to our natural world. SB 1648 (Parker/Walle) and SJR 74 would fix that by investing \$1 billion dollars for the acquisition and development of new parks. On the 100th anniversary of our park system it is time to finally invest in new state parks.

We ask that the House support this bipartisan effort and follow Chairman Walle's lead. The Sierra Club does not object to amendments to include local parks or conservation easements in the bill, but asks that the bulk of the \$1 billion be dedicated to the largest number of people to gain access to wild places and that is without doubt our state park system.

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