



American Planning Association
Texas Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

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RE: Testimony on HB 4018

Thank you, Chairman Burns, for the opportunity to present the following information from the American Planning Association - Texas Chapter. My name is Heather Nick, and I represent the American Planning Association - Texas Chapter, and we are testifying in support of HB 4018. The Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association (APATX) represents public and private sector planners, planning academics and students, elected officials, and citizen planners in the great state of Texas.

Providing the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) with the authority to enter into agreements for the purposes of carbon sequestration using nature-based solutions on State-owned lands is both fiscally and environmentally responsible. This bill will would allow the Department to use state-owned lands under their jurisdiction to develop and secure carbon credits and dedicate generated funds toward the conservation of those lands. In so doing, it will unlock access to carbon capture and storage tax credits, a key economic strategy included in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. Beneficiaries will include not only the State of Texas, but also the private sector, including industries such as steel, cement, refineries, and power generation and investors in the carbon capture marketplace.

This is a proven solution that works with nature to improve the quality of the air that we breathe. Carbon capture can lead to cleaner air for neighborhoods and communities overburdened with smog and high rates of asthma. It will also provide the TPWD with additional resources to dedicate to land conservation as our State's growth continues unabated. If passed, this bill will improve economic development and public health and enhance quality of life.

APATX would be interested in being a continued partner to help the Texas Legislature in the passage of this important bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Nick, AICP, MPA
Chapter President, APA Texas Chapter