

In responsible citizens of this area in following the policy of preserving the natural beauty have attracted many people from the crowded cities and colder parts of this nation to use and enjoy this natural beauty.

There are now between 20 and 30 summer camps that provide relaxation and pleasure to many thousands of boys and girls. These camps are well managed and provide competent instruction in various sports and nature studies.

The majority of these camps are operated by churches of various denominations. Also the Boy Scouts, YMCA and Lions have camps in the areas adjoining the Guadalupe and its tributaries.

Those who have established homes along the river have done so in a manner to enhance the beauty of the river and hills. They enjoy this natural beauty and are zealously preserving same.

The patients in the private, State and Federal hospitals in the Kerrville area also enjoy the natural beauty of the area.

The inclusion of the Guadalupe River in this type of legislation would discourage the continued growth of the area through private enterprise.

We respectfully request that the Guadalupe River be deleted from all legislation of this nature.

STATEMENT OF KERRVILLE BOARD OF REALTORS, BY FLOYD PRICE, PRESIDENT

The Kerrville Board of Realtors has duly considered the proposed legislation creating Wild and Scenic Rivers as set forth in S. 119 and H.R. 8416 and are of the firm opinion that the Guadalupe River of Texas should not be included.

We do not contest the policy as stated in either S. 119 or H.R. 8416 as there are a number of streams or portions of streams that can and should be retained in their present pristine beauty; however the Guadalupe River of Texas is not such a stream.

1. The Guadalupe River is now highly developed with towns, camps, hospitals both State and Federal, homes and resort ranches all of which materially contribute to contentment and happiness of more than 25,000 people annually.

2. In the middle and upper reaches of the Guadalupe there are some 28 summer camps for minors and adults. Most of these are operated by church organizations, some are for boy scouts and YMCA. About nine or ten of the camps are on a commercial basis accommodating some 8,000 boys and girls during the summer season. These camps teach the young people about nature as well as swimming, horseback riding, archery, tennis, golf and provide overnight camping in the hills adjacent to the river.

3. For many years the people in the Upper Guadalupe Basin have zealously maintained the stream in as near its original beauty and this attitude still prevails.

4. All of the benefits which the people from the crowded cities and cold climates enjoy has been provided without cost to the taxpayer and we believe it should continue.

NEW BRAUNFELS, TEX.,
March 13, 1968.

Hon. O. C. FISHER,
House of Representatives,
House Office Building,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SIR: I would appreciate your requesting to have the Guadalupe River withdrawn from Senate Bill 119.

I believe the Federal Government has done a great amount of good in many areas which are too large for the local citizens to undertake; but I do not believe the Guadalupe River is a project which fits into this category. I believe the local citizens are capable of developing and preserving the beauty of the natural resources which are in our community; therefore, I believe the Federal Government should not expend any funds or exercise any control over the projects which can best be handled by the local citizens. I urge you to have the Guadalupe River withdrawn from Senate Bill 119.

Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

Sincerely yours,

MELVIN JOCHEC.