

Date: 2025-07-26 First Name: Stephanie Last Name: Morris

Title: N/A

Organization: self

Address:
City: Leander
State: Texas
Zipcode:
Phone:

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Good morning, Chair and Members,

I'm Stephanie Morris: fourth-generation Texan, nurse, and beekeeper. I live in Leander, where the South San Gabriel flows across our property.

On July 5th, our home and apiary flooded as the river rose 35 feet with filthy water and debris. We've lost so much—but we are lucky.

Texans are suffering—from flooding and from the policy failures that made it worse. We need your help—not partisan map games.

Irresponsible development changed our lives and land long before this flood.

We live downstream from the "best, most beautiful" pollutant discharge in the state.

Millions of gallons a day of poorly treated wastewater turned a once-pristine stream into stinky, rotting, algae-covered quicksand.

It pollutes our property and degrades the river.

They're taking our water—and replacing it with wastewater and flash flooding.

Those profiting from it rape and pillage, then move on—to the next paradise to destroy.

At our expense.

Unscrupulous outsiders are exploiting freedoms meant for Texans—Texans who know freedom comes with responsibility.

These folks missed that memo.

The same developments that send us their sewage have reshaped the land—raising grade, filling creek beds, and paving native

ground.

And water does what water does when people get up in her business.

Now even small rains flood faster—and angrier.

Between storms? We're left with less water in our wells, springs, and creeks than ever before.

It's not the people flushing toilets who live with the consequences of their waste.

It's us.

Our rivers. Our land. Our health.

And it's not the developers or cities with deep new wells going dry.

It's ours.

Let me be clear: the risk isn't just to property.

Lives are lost after floods—not just during them.

The stress is crushing. People get sick. People die.

Our lives, livestock, livelihoods, and the Texan way of life are in your hands.

You may say redistricting isn't about flooding, land use, or water—but it is.

Drawing lines decides who has a voice—and who gets left behind.

Please—do better for Texans. Not the developer-in-chief.

He's not like us. He doesn't share our values.

Thank you. God bless you—and God bless Texas.

IMG\_5615.HEIC 7/5/2025 @0657 - View of the swollen South San Gabriel River, 10 foot rise is considered a flood, this is about 30 of

the 35+ feet above normal it would rise that morning, taken from the raised second floor of our home just after calling 911 asking for

evacuation of San Gabriel Ranches as south CR 270, our only egress, was about to flood (where the creek that's "not a creek"

according to the developer was beginning to breech the road).

The freight train of a flood temporarily scoured the riverbed clean...for now.

IMG\_9954.JPG 8/16/2020 @ 1534 - View of the polluted South San Gabriel River of wastewater from the riverbank cliff behind our home

Stephanie Ryder Morris

Birds N Bees Farm

Leander, Texas

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the

difference..." - Reinhold Niebuhr

## **Testimony to the Special Committee on Congressional Redistricting**

Good morning, Chair and Members,

July, 2025

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**Texans are suffering**—from flooding and from the policy failures that made it worse. We need your help—not partisan map games.

Irresponsible development changed our lives and land long before this flood. We live downstream from the "best, most beautiful" pollutant discharge in the state. Millions of gallons a day of poorly treated wastewater turned a once-pristine stream into stinky, rotting, algae-covered quicksand. It pollutes our property and degrades the river.

They're taking our water—and replacing it with wastewater, flash flooding and fire. Those profiting from it rape and pillage, then move on—to the next paradise to destroy. At our expense.

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You may say redistricting isn't about flooding, land use, or water—but it is. Drawing lines decides who has a voice—and who gets left behind.

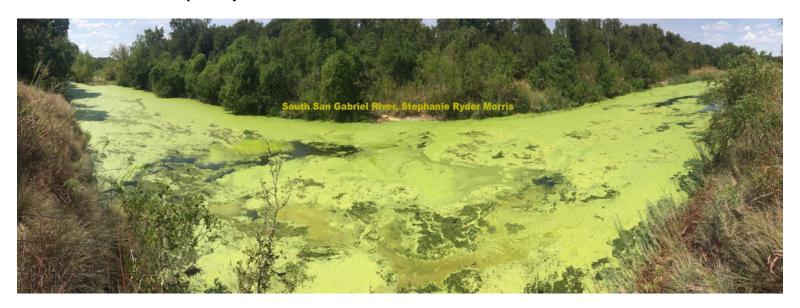
Please—do better for Texans. Not the developer-in-chief. He's not like us. He doesn't share our values.

Thank you. God bless you—and God bless Texas.



**IMG\_5615.HEIC - 7/5/2025 @ 06:57** View from our raised second floor of the swollen South San Gabriel River. A 10-foot rise is considered a flood—this was about 30 of the 35+ feet it would rise that morning. Photo taken just after calling 911 to request evacuation of San Gabriel Ranches, as CR

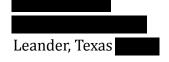
270—our only exit—was about to flood where the "not-a-creek" (per the developer) was breaching the road. The flood temporarily scoured our limestone riverbed clean.



**IMG\_9954.JPG 8/16/2020 @ 1534** - View of the polluted South San Gabriel <u>River of wastewater</u> from the riverbank cliff behind our home

Stephanie Ryder Morris

Birds N Bees Farm



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