



Austin Landline Report April 2021

Yesterday was a big day in the Legislature for STPRA. Testimony was heard on a bill that would address our concerns about adequate notification and participation of land owners in the initial processes of conducting surveys for pipeline routing in advance of construction of a project.

The bill, H. B. 4107, was introduced by Rep. Dustin Burrows, who has family ties with some of our members. Rep. Burrows also happens to be the Chair of the very powerful Calendars Committee, which is the gatekeeper determining which bills are allowed to come up for a vote on the floor of the full House.

Testifying in favor of the bill were Frank Armstrong, STPRA board member, and Eric Opiela, STPRA board president. As usual, they did a stellar performance that even had the one pipeline representative opposing the bill on the spot in trying to come up with a credible objection. We are very hopeful that even if a comprehensive eminent domain bill again fails to pass this session, this bill could pass. If enacted, this bill would go a long way toward simply and easily preventing some of the objections landowners might have about particular projects. Their testimony can be seen by going to the 3:53 [timestamp](#).

Legislators will continue hearing bills at a fast pace as session deadlines loom. In addition to the bill mentioned above, we are giving a lot of attention to a bill that would allow a layer of confidentiality for landowners participating in Carrizo cane removal programs and a bill making it easier to prosecute cartels and gang members engaged in human trafficking. Please watch our legislative updates on over 50 other bills we are following.

Your Austin Team,
Eric Opiela, Joe Maley, Charles Maley, and Robert Howard