

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE ROUTING
OF THE PROPOSED PERMIAN HIGHWAY PIPELINE THROUGH GILLESPIE COUNTY
AND REQUESTING ACTION FROM THE STATE LEGISLATURE**

WHEREAS, the board of the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau does understand the need to move Texas oil and gas products to the populated areas of the state and the ports of Texas for the economic benefit of the state; and

WHEREAS, we feel, however, the currently proposed route of the Kinder Morgan and Exxon Mobil (in partnership with EagleClaw Midstream Ventures) 42-inch underground high pressure natural gas pipeline, known as the Permian Highway Pipeline (PHP), from Coynosa, Texas, to Sheridan, Texas through the heart of the Texas Hill Country, including Gillespie County, will do enormous harm to the commitment and work of so many Texans in protecting the natural beauty and resources of the Texas Hill Country; and

WHEREAS, millions of Texans feel, much as the 36th President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, that the Texas Hill Country offers a place of physical and spiritual healing for those in major metropolitan areas of Texas, and in fact 60% of visitors to Fredericksburg and Gillespie County come from our major metro areas of Texas; and

WHEREAS, according to a computer generated consensus map by the Geography Department of Austin Community College, the mean center of the Texas Hill Country is very near the famous Luckenbach Texas (as a side note, quite well known among country-western music fans across Europe), with the pipeline running about 1.4 miles to the north of "downtown" Luckenbach --- if the private partnership was wanting to slice the heart of the Texas Hill Country with this route, they did a really good job; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism, reports that visitors left behind **\$105.6 million** in direct expenditures in Gillespie County in 2017, as well as **\$9 million** in state and local taxes, we view protection of this industry as vitally important to the continued success of our communities in Gillespie County; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of Fredericksburg and Gillespie County are now held up on a national level as a model on how to use tourism and agri-tourism for redevelopment of small towns and rural areas in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Texas wine industry now contributes more than **\$13.1 billion** of economic value to the State of Texas, and the Texas Hill Country AVA, with Fredericksburg as the epicenter, has become the marketing platform for much of Texas wine with the High Plains as the AVA with the most grape production, and the current route of the PHP could significantly limit the future expansion of wineries south of Highway 290 East between Fredericksburg and Stonewall – highly sought after real estate for new wineries and tasting rooms; and

WHEREAS, both Texas Tech University and Texas A&M University have recognized the potential for the growth of the wine industry in Texas and are providing educational support in the classroom and in the vineyard, with Texas Tech offering full degrees and certificates in viticulture and enology at the Hill Country University Center in Fredericksburg; and

WHEREAS, the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau is concerned about the safety of our estimated annual 1.2 million visitors and where they may come into contact with the PHP as increased commercialization from wineries and wedding venues moves into the very areas that the proposed pipeline would traverse Gillespie County; and

WHEREAS, a safe water supply is of extreme importance to our local residents as well as the visitor industry, and it appears the private partnership has not performed an environmental impact study evaluating the potential impact to property near or adjacent to the PHP, the area aquifers, the caverns, the wildlife, and the City of Fredericksburg (for example, what if there is a leak, explosion and major fire started in an extreme drought period, igniting a wildfire, which we know the Texas Hill Country is extremely vulnerable to); and

WHEREAS, the private partnership may not fully understand the potential impact on the tourism industry in Fredericksburg, Gillespie County and the Texas Hill Country of even a small explosion/fire if reported on by state and national media; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas pipe lines apparently do not have the same regulatory oversight as transmission lines and other public utilities; and

WHEREAS, the private partnership asserts that the State of Texas has delegated to the private partnership the authority to choose the route of the PHP and to take the private land traversed by the PHP using the governmental power of eminent domain, without providing a formal opportunity of the landowners and impacted communities to participate in the routing selection process; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Gillespie County have expressed strong concerns and opposition to the presence of the PHP in Gillespie County due to potential negative impacts to the Texas Hill Country environment that all Texans treasure (if they have been residents of the state long enough to experience it!), to the soil, the water systems, land values and the agri-tourism businesses in the county (many second and third generation owners) that we have worked so hard to establish and nourish over the decades,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE FREDERICKSBURG CONVENTION AND VISITOR BUREAU THAT:

1. The Board of the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau opposes the route of the PHP through Gillespie County and the very heart of the Texas Hill Country on behalf of our hospitality industry businesses and their employees (well over 1,000), as well as our millions of visitors from across Texas, the United States and the world.

2. The Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau respectfully requests immediate action in the Texas State Legislature to protect landowners, business owners and communities from the negative impact of PHP and other potential oil and gas pipelines by:
 - A. Creating a better regulatory process for oil and gas pipeline routing that enables impacted landowners and local governmental entities to have a voice in the approval process.
 - B. Requiring environmental and economic impact studies for all oil and gas pipelines, whether they are intrastate or interstate.
 - C. Requiring substantial governmental oversight over the power of eminent domain delegated to private companies so that these private companies do not have the unrestricted power of eminent domain.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 26th day of March, 2019.



Krista Gratigni, Chairperson
Board of the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau

See attached list of Board members and map of center of the Texas Hill Country.

**2018/2019 FREDERICKSBURG CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU
BOARD MEMBERS
2/25/19**

Krista Gratigni, Chair	<i>Nimitz Foundation</i>
Elizabeth Rodriguez, Vice Chair	<i>Cotton Gin Cabernet Grill (absent on 3/26/19)</i>
Jamey Vogel, Secretary	<i>Vogel Orchard</i>
Mary Easterling, Treasurer	<i>Easterling Custom Boot Co. (absent on 3/26/19)</i>
Doug Cochran, Past Chair	<i>Enchanted Rock State Natural Area (abstained from vote as state employee)</i>
Miguel Lecuona	<i>Hill Country Light Photography</i>
Stephen Harris	<i>InSight Gallery</i>
Linda Goldsmith	<i>Luckenbach Texas</i>
Larry Jackson	<i>Larry Jackson Fine Art & Antiques</i>
Kelly Criddle	<i>The Hangar Hotel, Fredericksburg Herb Farm, Fredericksburg Brewing Company</i>
Donnie Schuch (County Rep)	<i>County Commissioner Pct. 4 (non-voting ex-officio member)</i>
Tom Musselman (City Rep)	<i>City Councilman (non-voting ex-officio member)</i>
Ernie Loeffler, President/CEO	<i>Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau (staff)</i>

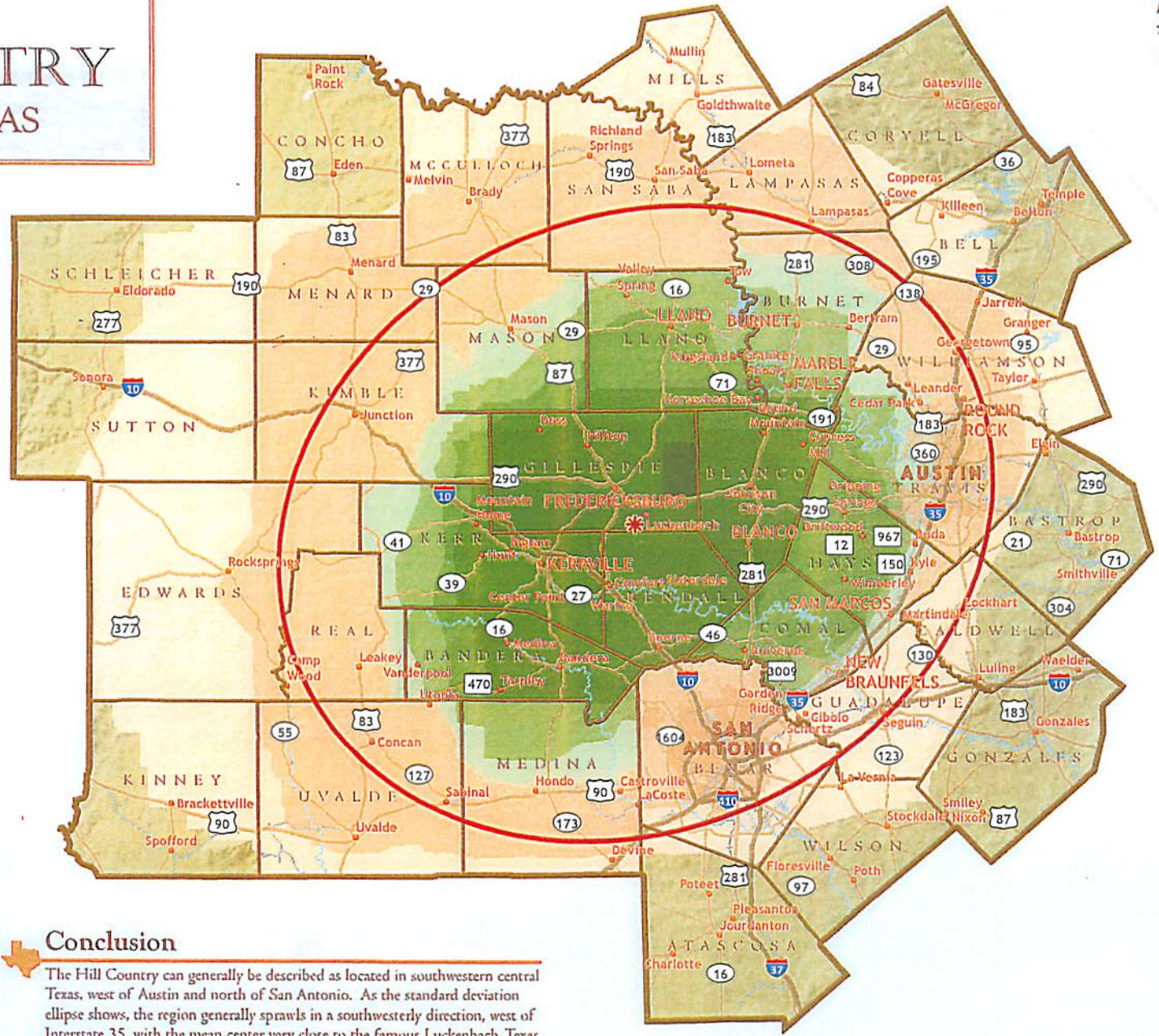
MAP OF THE HILL COUNTRY REGION OF TEXAS

Introduction

Many maps exist throughout Texas outlining the beautiful landscape referred to as the Texas Hill Country. Created by natural resource agencies, tourist companies, or even realtors, it is apparent that each agency or individual has its own personal definition of the Hill Country. Can a general consensus be reached on the boundary of this vernacular region? Where is the Texas Hill Country?

Methodology

Maps with the boundary of the Hill Country from 100 different sources were collected and imported into ESRI's ArcGIS software for geographic comparison. This data was overlaid to calculate the percentage of agreement for all areas between the selected maps. This map depicts areas in Texas where at least 25% of the selected maps were in consensus. Those areas with higher percentages give a better idea of the most agreed upon boundary of the Hill Country. Further analysis was conducted to determine the mean center and standard distribution ellipse of the region.



Conclusion

The Hill Country can generally be described as located in southwestern central Texas, west of Austin and north of San Antonio. As the standard deviation ellipse shows, the region generally sprawls in a southwesterly direction, west of Interstate 35, with the mean center very close to the famous Luckenbach, Texas. The heart of the Hill Country is considered to primarily be located in Gillespie and Blanco counties, along with portions of Kerr and Kendall counties.

