

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Charlie Gonzalez issued the following statement regarding yesterday’s House vote on the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park Boundary Expansion Act (H.R. 3100):

“Modern San Antonio owes much of its legacy to the steadfast presence of the Missions. They remain an enduring reminder of the resilience of a community and its people. That is why I was proud to join a bipartisan group of my colleagues to support legislation that would have expanded and improved the Missions Parks.

“Unfortunately, the original, commonsense Missions bill sponsored by Rep. Canseco was dramatically altered by a non-Texas Representative and rolled into a controversial public lands package before it was brought up for a vote in the House of Representatives.

“While I had reservations with the larger public lands package, my vote against the new Missions bill was due to the alterations that now fail to provide the park with the proper tools it needs to grow. Under this altered version, the purchase of additional land for the Missions and any park expansion study are prohibited. These counterproductive measures would jeopardize future growth of the Missions by forcing the park to rely solely on donated land and prevent proper future planning.

“Thankfully, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson is sponsoring a bill in the Senate that would adhere to the original vision of the House bill. I look forward to working with the Senator and my House colleagues to continue to fight for improved legislation that will expand and protect the natural and cultural resources that have been critical to the development of our community and our identity.”

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