



ERIN ELIZABETH GAMEZ



**TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 38**

August 26, 2026

RE: H.R. 9779 - Hands Off Our Boca Chica Beach Act

Dear Chairman Westerman and members of the House Committee on Natural Resources:

I am writing in strong support of H.R. 9779, the Hands Off Our Boca Chica Beach Act of 2026, introduced by Congressman Vicente Gonzalez.

As a Texas State Representative from Cameron County, where Boca Chica Beach is located, I can attest to the importance and urgency of this legislation. Earlier this year in July, our community (including residents and elected officials) was caught off guard by a proposal to rename Boca Chica Beach to Cyber Beach. The proposal was submitted by a single individual who does not reside in Texas and was scheduled for consideration by the Domestic Names Committee of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN). A vast majority of the community found out about the name change less than 24 hours before the vote.

Upon learning of the proposal, citizens and elected officials across our community quickly mobilized to make our unified opposition known to the Domestic Names Committee. Thankfully, the Domestic Names Committee ultimately voted against the proposed name change.

While we are grateful that the proposal was rejected, this experience highlighted the need for greater transparency and meaningful community input in the federal geographic naming process. H.R. 9779 would provide important additional safeguards and transparency, helping ensure that communities are adequately informed and have an opportunity to weigh in before significant changes are considered to the names of places that are deeply rooted in their history, identity, and local heritage.

For these reasons, I strongly support H.R. 9779 and respectfully urge the Committee to report this legislation favorably to the full House of Representatives. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin Gámez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Erin Elizabeth Gámez
State Representative, District 38
Texas House of Representatives



Eddie Treviño, Jr.
County Judge

August 25, 2026

Honorable Chairman Bruce Westerman and Committee Members
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 9779 – Hands Off Our Boca Chica Beach Act of 2026

To the Esteemed Members of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, thank you for the opportunity to come before you and share about Cameron County.

As Cameron County Judge, I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of H.R. 9779, the Hands Off Our Boca Chica Beach Act of 2026.

Boca Chica Beach is a longstanding and cherished part of Cameron County's natural, cultural, and historical identity. The name "Boca Chica Beach" has been used by residents and visitors for nearly a century and is deeply ingrained in the identity of our community. It is not simply a geographic designation; it is a name that reflects the history, heritage, and connection that generations of Cameron County residents have had with this important natural resource.

Our community was therefore deeply concerned when we received less than 24 hours' notice that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names' Domestic Names Committee would hold a hearing on July 9, 2026, to consider a proposal submitted by an individual from outside our community to rename Boca Chica Beach "Cyber Beach." The proposed name was associated with a commercial product, Tesla's Cybertruck, and would have replaced a longstanding geographic name with one having no historical or cultural connection to the community.

The response from Cameron County residents demonstrated the strength of our community's attachment to the name Boca Chica Beach. A total of 2,780 emails were submitted opposing the proposed renaming, alongside opposition expressed by state and federal elected officials. This overwhelming response reflected a clear and consistent consensus: Boca Chica Beach should remain Boca Chica Beach.

The experience also demonstrated the importance of ensuring that communities have a meaningful voice in decisions affecting the names and cultural identity of places they have called home for generations. Geographic names carry historical significance, and changes to those

Cameron County Courthouse
Oscar C. Dancy Building
Phone (956) 544-0830

1100 E. Monroe Street, Suite 218
etrevino@co.cameron.tx.us

Brownsville, Texas 78520
Fax (956) 544-0801



Eddie Treviño, Jr.
County Judge

names should not be driven by outside interests or commercial considerations without substantial community support and involvement.

Looking forward, Cameron County supports establishing clear protections to ensure that the longstanding name of Boca Chica Beach cannot be arbitrarily changed through a process that fails to adequately reflect the wishes of the community. We believe H.R. 9779 provides an important safeguard for the historical and cultural identity of this cherished public resource.

Passage of H.R. 9779 would provide our community with certainty that the name Boca Chica Beach will be preserved and respected. It would also allow Cameron County and our residents to focus our collective efforts on the issues that directly affect the quality of life of our communities and the continued stewardship of our natural resources.

On behalf of Cameron County, I respectfully urge the Committee to support H.R. 9779 and advance the Hands Off Our Boca Chica Beach Act of 2026.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work on behalf of communities and public lands throughout the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eddie Treviño, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Eddie Treviño, Jr.
Cameron County Judge



August 28, 2026

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman

The Honorable Jared Huffman
Ranking Member

Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Huffman:

SpaceX writes to offer our support for H.R. 9779, the Hands Off Our Boca Chica Beach Act of 2026, and urges the Committee to advance the bill.

SpaceX has its headquarters at Starbase, Texas, where we manufacture, test, and launch the Starship launch system. Starbase is near Boca Chica Beach, which has officially been called Boca Chica Beach for nearly a century and is treasured in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. In November 2024, a non-Texas resident petitioned the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to rename the beach "Cyber Beach." SpaceX, the City of Starbase, Cameron County, the Texas Geographic Names Committee, and Texas lawmakers all opposed the name change. On July 9, 2026, the Board's Domestic Names Committee rightfully rejected the name change unanimously but provided very little notice to the public and resulted in widespread fear, confusion, and concern in the community about the possibility of the beach being renamed.

H.R. 9779 will protect against any future, unwarranted name changes by permanently designating the shoreline as "Boca Chica Beach." We strongly encourage the Committee's approval of this important legislation for the people of Cameron County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mat Dunn", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mat Dunn
Vice President, Government Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Vicente Gonzalez, Member of Congress