

DISSENTING VIEWS

We oppose H.R. 6041, which re-designates the Rio Grande American Canal near El Paso, Texas as the Travis C. Johnson Canal. In testimony before the House Water and Power Subcommittee in the last Congress, Mr. Johnson was described as the "principal author" of legislation authorizing the Rio Grande American Canal. However, it was also acknowledged at this hearing that it would be a precedent setting move to name a canal or other facility for a non-Member of Congress who is still living. Although it is clear that Mr. Johnson may have the qualifications to have the canal named for him, this Committee has a long history of only naming such facilities for non-Members of Congress posthumously.

This bill is premature not only for that reason, but also because it circumvented regular order. At the start of this Congress, the Majority indicated that all bills would proceed by regular order. The Committee's consideration of this bill ignores this pledge. Even though this bill has been introduced in the last three Congresses, the Majority seems to be in an extraordinary rush to avoid regular order for some unknown reason.

We also would like to note that since H.R. 6041's introduction, eight members have withdrawn their cosponsorship. This signals that something may not be right with this bill and further scrutiny may be warranted.

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