



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