

Alamo, Austin, and Lone Star chapters of
the Sierra Club
Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas
Bexar Audubon Society
Bexar Green Party
Boerne Together
Cibolo Nature Center
Citizens Allied for Smart Expansion
Citizens for the Protection of Cibolo Creek
Environment Texas
First Universalist Unitarian Church of
San Antonio
Friends of Canyon Lake
Friends of Dry Comal Creek
Friends of Government Canyon
Fuerza Unida
Green Party of Austin
Headwaters at Incarnate Word
Hays Community Action Network
Helotes Heritage Association
Helotes Nature Center
Hill Country Planning Association
Green Society of UTSA
Guadalupe River Road Alliance
Guardians of Lick Creek
Kendall County Well Owners Association
Kinney County Ground Zero
Leon Springs Business Association
Medina County Environmental Action
Association
Native Plant Society of Texas – SA
Northwest Interstate Coalition of
Neighborhoods
Preserve Castroville
Preserve Lake Dunlop Association
San Antonio Audubon Society
San Antonio Conservation Society
San Geronimo Nature Center
San Geronimo Valley Alliance
San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance
San Marcos River Foundation
Save Barton Creek Association
Save Our Springs Alliance
Scenic Loop/Boerne Stage Alliance
Securing a Future Environment
SEED Coalition
Solar San Antonio
Sisters of the Divine Providence
Travis County Green Party
West Texas Springs Alliance
Water Aid – Texas State University
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

April 18, 2017

House Natural Resources Committee

Chair: Rep. Lyle Larson

Vice Chair: Rep. Dade Phelan

Rep. Trent Ashby

Rep. DeWayne Burns

Rep. James Frank

Rep. Kyle J. Kacal

Rep. Tracy O. King

Rep. Eddie Lucio III

Rep. Poncho Nevárez

Rep. Four Price

Rep. Paul Workman

Re: H.B. 3417

Dear Chairman Larson and Members of the House Natural
Resources Committee,

Please accept this letter in support of H.B. 3417 on behalf of the
fifty-two member organizations of the Greater Edwards Aquifer
Alliance (GEAA). The bill would require groundwater districts to
consider impacts to exempt wells when issuing permits and would
encourage monitoring.

GEAA counts among its members many rural landowners who rely
on exempt wells. As demands on our groundwater resources
proliferate, it is essential that we protect the rights of existing
exempt well owners. During each period of drought over the past
thirteen years, GEAA has been contacted by rural landowners
distressed by the expensive prospect of having to drill deeper
wells. While H.B. 3417 will not entirely eliminate this prospect, it
will insure that the needs of rural families are considered when
their groundwater districts deliberate on new permit applications.

We are grateful to Representative King for authoring this
legislation. We feel that the language of this bill is needed to
provide direction to groundwater districts regarding their duty to
protect the water and property rights of rural Texans. We urge
you to vote to approve H.B. 3417.

Sincerely,



Annalisa Peace
Executive Director