



Alamo Group of the Sierra Club
Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas
Austin Regional Sierra Club
Bexar Audubon Society
Bexar Green Party
Castroville Smart Growth Coalition
Cibolo Nature Center
Environmental Stewardship
committees of the Episcopal Church
of Reconciliation & Episcopal
Diocese of West Texas
Environment Texas
First Universalist Unitarian Church of
San Antonio
Friends of Canyon Lake
Fuerza Unida
Government Canyon Natural History
Association
Hays Community Action Network
Helotes Heritage Association
Hill Country Planning Association
Guardians of Lick Creek
Kendall County Well Owners
Association
Kinney County Ground Zero
Medina County Environmental Action
Association
Northwest Interstate Coalition of
Neighborhoods
Preserve Our Water-Blanco County
San Antonio Conservation Society
San Geronimo Valley Alliance
San Geronimo Watershed Alliance
San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance
San Marcos River Foundation
Santuario Sisterfarm
Save Barton Creek Association
Save Our Springs Alliance
Scenic Loop/Boerne Stage Alliance
Sisters of the Divine Providence
Smart Growth San Antonio
SEED Coalition
Texas Water Alliance
Travis County Green Party
West Texas Springs Alliance
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
Wimberley Valley Watershed
Association

April 28, 2009

The Honorable Charles Gonzalez
United States Congress
303 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gonzalez,

We represent a broad cross section of organizations concerned about the protection of natural resources in Texas. We are asking for your leadership in protecting Texas wildlife, watersheds, rivers, and other natural resources from the impacts of climate change.

As you know, Texas is already experiencing the effects of climate change and the projected impacts on our natural resources over the next century are dramatic. From a spike in drought conditions across the region, to rising sea levels and more-intense storms threatening our coast, climate change presents one of the most pressing conservation challenges facing Texas in the twenty-first century. *Together, we can marshal the financial resources needed to meet that challenge.*

Fortunately, investing in protection of our natural resources from the impacts of global warming is also good for our economy; Texas has a \$10-billion outdoor recreation industry that depends on healthy wildlife populations and habitats. Natural resources are also critical to human health. Clean, flowing rivers supply much of our drinking water and coastal wetlands and barrier islands blunt the impact of storms and hurricanes. Failure to protect these resources not only puts our wildlife at risk, but our jobs, health, and economy as well.

As members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, you are in a key position to help us safeguard Texas's natural resources from the growing impacts of climate change, reducing the vulnerability of ecological systems and increasing the resilience of wildlife and natural habitats. On both the state and federal level we need *stable and dedicated funding* to ensure proper planning, implementation and management of the projects and initiatives that will help protect wildlife and their habitats in this changing climate. These projects provide multiple societal benefits, as healthy ecosystems mean a healthier and more vibrant Texas for everyone.

We ask your help in ensuring that whatever federal climate change legislation is enacted includes a dedicated investment in the protection and conservation of our wildlife, watersheds, rivers, and other natural resources. A dedicated fund for the protection of our country's natural resources is critical to the survival of many important plant and animal species – including those found only in Texas's unique ecosystems – as well as to our public health and economic well-being.

We look forward to working with you to help conserve our lands, waters, and wildlife threatened by a changing climate, for the good of future generations as well as our own.

Sincerely,

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance