

April 6, 2011

House Committee on Environmental Regulations
Representative Wayne Smith, Chair
Representative Jessica Farrar, Vice Chair
Representative Jose Aliseda
Representative Lon Burnam
Representative Warren Chisum
Representative Kelly Hancock
Representative Ken Legler
Representative Lanham Lyne
Representative Ron Reynolds

Re: HB 3707

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA). It is the consensus of all 47 of our member organizations, which span 21 counties in Central and South Texas, to oppose this legislation. Collectively, our groups represent approximately 25,000 Texans.

Working as I do with the member organizations and with many individuals from throughout our region, I can confidently say that if passed this legislation will not serve the people of Texas well. Because Texas does not empower land use or zoning authority at the County level, contesting permits granted by TCEQ are the only recourse available to citizens residing outside of municipalities. Even the simple powers of governing incompatible land uses are currently denied Texas Counties.

The fact that, over the past six years, so many of our member groups and individual members have engaged in contesting TCEQ permits - by which action they have committed themselves to raising hundreds of thousands of dollars, collectively, in fighting permits that will negatively impact the value of their homes and properties, their health and well being - attests to the value and necessity of Texas' current contested case hearing process as a venue of last resort for thousands of Texans.

We urge you to deny passage of HB 3707. We hope that you will consider GEAA as a resource at your disposal, and feel free to call us with any questions or concerns you have regarding issues that impact our water resources. We look forward to working with you during the 82nd Legislative session to preserve and protect our groundwater resources, and the Texas Hill Country that sustains them.

Respectfully,

Annalisa Peace
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The [Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#) unites 47 organizations behind a comprehensive plan to protect the Edwards Aquifer, its springs, rivers and streams, flora and fauna, and the Texas Hill Country.