

Member Organizations

Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas
Austin Regional, Alamo and Lone Star Chapters of the Sierra Club
Bexar Audubon Society
Bexar County Green Party
Boerne Together
Cibolo Nature Center
Cibolo Creek Conservation Society
Citizens Allied for Smart Expansion
Citizens for Protection of Cibolo Creek
Environment Texas
First Universalist Unitarian Church of San Antonio
Friends of Canyon Lake
Friends of Dry Comal Creek
Fuerza Unida
Friends of Government Canyon
Hays Community Action Network
Headwaters Coalition
Helotes Heritage Association
Helotes Nature Center
Hill Country Planning Association
Guardians of Lick Creek
Guadalupe River Road Alliance
Kendall County Well Owners Association
Kinney County Ground Zero
Leon Creek Business Association
Medina County Environmental Action Association
Native Plant Society of San Antonio
Northwest Interstate Coalition of Neighborhoods
Preserve Castroville
Preserve Lake Dunlop Association
San Antonio Audubon Society
San Antonio Conservation Society
San Geronimo Valley Alliance
San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance
San Marcos River Foundation
Santuario Sisterfarm
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

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May 5, 2015

The Honorable Speaker Joe Straus

Re: HB 2595

Dear Speaker Straus,

On behalf of the fifty-one member organizations of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA), I am writing to ask you to vote no on HB 2595.

X **HB 2595** – Keffer Relating to the use of municipal initiative and referendum to restrict property rights. This bill would strip citizens of the power to initiate and vote on ordinances that interfere with an individual’s use of his or her property. This bill is written so broadly that we believe that it would have prohibited the citizens of Austin from passing the Save Our Springs Ordinances had it been in effect.


This bill further provides that a person whose rights are affected by a violation of this section may sue for injunctive relief to enforce this section. GEAA believes it is essential to reserve the rights of citizens to enact reasonable ordinance through the process of initiative and referendum to protect our natural resources.

The balance between the rights of individual property owners and public welfare is a delicate one. Texas has chosen, through legislation such as the Texas Real Private Property Act, to recognize quite clearly and generously the rights and protections that protect private property from “takings”. We do not believe that additional legislation expanding the rights of private property owners beyond current law is needed or wanted.

Robust discussion, on a case by case basis, of the rights of property owners and citizens’ rights to protect shared resources will be essential as Texas becomes ever more densely populated. Please do not unnecessarily restrict this dynamic by passing HB 2595.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments on behalf of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA). GEAA unites 51 organizations behind a comprehensive plan to protect the Edwards Aquifer, its springs, rivers and streams, flora and fauna, and the Texas Hill Country. It is the consensus of all 51 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. 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 84th Legislative session to preserve and protect our groundwater resources, and the Texas Hill Country that sustains them.

Respectfully,



Annalisa Peace Executive Director
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The [Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#) unites 51 organizations behind a comprehensive plan to protect the Edwards Aquifer, its springs, rivers and streams, flora and fauna, and the Texas Hill Country.

