

Dear GEAA members and friends,

As you recall, GEAA and others strongly opposed [HB 1865](#) - Morrison / [SB 709](#) – Frazer : Relating to environmental permitting procedures for applications filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

I am sorry to report that this unjust bill passed a vote of the House on Thursday, April 30th and is on its way to becoming law. You may recall, this legislation strips Texans of a fair process to contest permits for quarries, asphalt plants, sewage treatment and discharge, and waste disposal projects.

Since so many of you contacted your representatives to ask that they oppose this bill, I am providing a final tally and record votes on the amendments so that you can see how your representative voted.

HB 1865 / SB 709 Record Votes: Approved as amended, was passed to third reading by (Record 489): 92 Yeas, 50 Nays, 1 Present, not voting (Mr. Speaker, Joe Straus).

Yeas — Anderson, C.; Anderson, R.; Ashby; Aycok; Bohac; Bonnen, D.; Bonnen, G.; Burkett; Burns; Burrows; Button; Capriglione; Cook; Craddick; Crownover; Cyrier; Dale; Darby; Davis, S.; Deshotel; Elkins; Faircloth; Fallon; Farney; Fletcher; Flynn; Frank; Frullo; Galindo; Geren; Goldman; Gonzales; Guillen; Harless; Herrero; Hughes; Hunter; Isaac; Kacal; Keffer; Keough; King, K.; King, P.; King, T.; Klick; Koop; Krause; Kuempel; Landgraf; Larson; Laubenberg; Leach; Lozano; Martinez; Meyer; Miller, D.; Miller, R.; Morrison; Murphy; Otto; Paddie; Parker; Paul; Pen~a; Phelan; Phillips; Price; Raney; Rinaldi; Schaefer; Schofield; Schubert; Shaheen; Sheets; Sheffield; Simmons; Simpson; Smith; Spitzer; Springer; Stephenson; Stickland; Thompson, E.; Tinderholt; Turner, E.S.; VanDeaver; Villalba; White, J.; Workman; Wray; Zedler; Zerwas.

Nays — Allen; Alonzo; Alvarado; Anchia; Bell; Bernal; Blanco; Coleman; Collier; Davis, Y.; Dutton; Farias; Farrar; Giddings; Gonza´lez; Guerra; Gutierrez; Hernandez; Howard; Huberty; Israel; Johnson; Longoria; Lucio; Ma´rquez; Martinez Fischer; McClendon; Metcalf; Miles; Minjarez; Moody; Murr; Naishtat; Neva´rez; Oliveira; Pickett; Raymond; Reynolds; Riddle; Rodriguez, E.; Rodriguez, J.; Romero; Rose; Sanford; Thompson, S.; Turner, C.; Turner, S.; Vo; Walle; Wu.

[Click here](#) to see how your representative voted on the various amendments. *If you are an attorney who understands case law, or a citizen*

who plans to exercise your rights to contest a TCEQ permit, this report on the amendments will definitely interest you.

We are aware that Representative Doug Miller was approached by several of you with the request to offer amendments that would have made this bill less toxic. He declined, and, as reflected by the record vote, also voted against all of the amendments that were not accepted by the bill's author, and voted for the bill to pass. Voting likewise were representatives Jason Isaac, Paul Workman, Lyle Larson, and Tracy King (among others).

If you were planning to contest a permit and are not able to do so prior to September 1st, your prospects of winning just got really bleak. Now you know who to thank for that.

Speaking of thanks - we all owe our gratitude to many who worked so hard to sink or fix this bill, including Texas Campaign for the Environment, Public Citizen, Environment Texas, Lone Star Sierra Club, Air Alliance Houston, Environmental Defense Fund, National Wildlife Foundation, Alliance for a Clean Texas, Texas League of Conservation Voters, and the Frederick, Perales, Allmon & Rockwell P.C.

I post this report not to discourage you from exercising your rights as citizens but, rather, to inform you as to which legislators do not respect those rights. Our thanks go out to all of you who contacted your legislators concerning this bill. GEAA will continue to work with you, though perhaps in a diminished capacity, in fighting TCEQ permits that threaten your health, safety, and the use and enjoyment of your property.

Again, thank you,

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director

[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)