

Dear GEAA members and friends,

As we enter the home stretch of the Legislative Session, your engagement floor votes is now needed as much as ever. To follow are some bad bills coming up this week.

We urge you to oppose:

**[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 SOS 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.

[Click here](#) for more information on the impacts of HB 2595.

**[HB 3298](#)** – Larson Relating to a study conducted by the Texas Water Development Board

regarding the development of a market and conveyance network for water in this state. We agree with the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club that *“such a study would focus the attention of the state away from what is needed first and foremost to meet our state’s water challenges and because the prospect of a massive market and conveyance network to move water around the state poses threats to protection of the environment and undermines the prospects for building a consensus on water policy that balances rural and urban interests.”*

[Click here](#) for more information on the impacts of HB 3298

**[HB 912](#)** – Isaac Relating to the dismissal of protests against certain decisions and actions of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regarding wastewater discharge permits. This bill amends Subchapter B, Chapter 26, of the Water Code , requiring the TCEQ to dismiss any protest opposing a wastewater discharge permit if the protest is filed by a municipality that is subject to less stringent wastewater treatment requirements than the requirements established by the permit.

As always, thank you so much for engaging. Stay tuned for a report on the outcome and vote tallies of HB 1865 – the bad contested case hearings bill.

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director

[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)