

Alamo, Austin, and Lone Star chapters of the Sierra Club Aquifer Guardians in Urban Areas **Bexar Audubon Society Bexar Green Party Boerne Together Cibolo Nature Center** Citizens Allied for Smart Expansion Citizens for the Protection of Cibolo Creek **Environment Texas** First Universalist Unitarian Church of San Antonio Friends of Canyon Lake Friends of Dry Comal Creek Friends of Government Canyon Fuerza Unida Green Party of Austin Headwaters at Incarnate Word Hays Community Action Network Helotes Heritage Association **Helotes Nature Center** Hill Country Planning Association Green Society of UTSA **Guadalupe River Road Alliance Guardians of Lick Creek** Kendall County Well Owners Association Kinney County Ground Zero Leon Springs Business Association Medina County Environmental Action Association Native Plant Society of Texas - SA Northwest Interstate Coalition of **Neighborhoods Preserve Castroville** Preserve Lake Dunlop Association San Antonio Audubon Society San Antonio Conservation Society San Geronimo Nature Center San Geronimo Valley Alliance San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance San Marcos River Foundation 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 **PO Box 15618** San Antonio, Texas 78212

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House Natural Resources Committee Chair: Rep. Lyle Larson Vice Chair: Rep. Dade Phelan Rep. Trent Ashby Rep. DeWayne Burns Rep. James Frank Rep. Kyle J. Kacal Rep. Tracy O. King Rep. Eddie Lucio III Rep. Poncho Nevárez Rep. Four Price Rep. Paul Workman

Dear Chairman Larson and Members of the House Natural Resources Committee,

It is with great delight that I submit this letter in support of H.B. 1536 on behalf of the fifty-two member organizations of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA). The bill directs TCEQ to produce a biennial report on Green Stormwater Infrastructure & Low-Impact Development (LID).

GEAA has been promoting the use of LID for the past ten years as a sustainable method of incorporating new development into the landscape of the Edwards Aquifer Region. Towards this goal, we have published "<u>Watershed Stewardship for the Edwards Aquifer</u> <u>Region</u>", have joined with graduate students at UTSA to research the effectiveness of LID in improving water quality and encouraging groundwater recharge, and have had great success with our Community Rain Gardens program in engaging Home Owners Associations in using LID in their common areas.

The City of San Antonio is currently distributing \$10 million in funding for projects that incorporate LID on the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. Voters approved this funding in recognition of the benefits of LID in managing stormwater in this flood prone area.

The State of Texas should take every opportunity to enhance recharge into our aquifers and ensure that our surface water supplies are replenished with high quality stormwater by encouraging the use of these common-sense and affordable techniques. We believe, and hope you agree, that H.B. 1536 is the right step in this direction and is worthy of your approval.

Sincerely,

Annalisa Peace Executive Director