April 3, 2017

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 “Watershed Stewardship for the Edwards Aquifer Region”, 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