April 18, 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

Re: H.B. 2240

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. 2240 on behalf of the fifty-two member organizations of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA). The bill would require certain water utilities serving a population of 10,000 or more to have “time-of-day” limitations on outdoor watering if they want a loan for new water supplies.

A growing number of cities and water districts already prohibit their customers from watering their lawns during the heat of the day, at least in summer months, in order to prevent the wasteful evaporation of water. Studies show that as much as 50% of the water applied during the hottest times of the day never reach the roots of plants. This bill insures that Water Development Board funding is well spent by setting a reasonable limitation on outdoor watering to prevent wasting water.

We would like to see these “time-of-day” restrictions implemented consistently throughout the State. Projections for water needed to support our growing population certainly indicate the wisdom of conserving water as the cheapest and most reliable means of insuring that these needs are met. The State of Texas should take every opportunity to promote water conservation. We believe, and hope you agree, that H.B. 2240 is the right step in this direction and is worthy of your approval.

Sincerely,

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director