

Dear GEAA members and friends,

I am sorry to report that HB 1865 / SB 709 passed a vote of the House last night and is on its way to becoming law. You may recall, this legislation strips Texans of the ability to contest permits for quarries, asphalt plants, sewage treatment and discharge, and waste disposal projects. I will send a full report on who voted YEA and NAY as soon as the vote tallies are official so you can see whether your representative helped or hurt us.

Meanwhile, there are some bills that are very much worthy of your support coming up next week:

COMMITTEE: Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs

TIME & DATE: 2:00 PM or upon adjournment Monday, May 04, 2015

PLACE: E1.012 (Hearing Room)

**HB 1016** – King, Tracy O. Relating to the designation of certain river or stream segments as being of unique ecological value. This bill designates portions of the Nueces, Frio, Sabinal, San Marcos, and Comal rivers within Region L as being of unique ecological value. Designation means only that a state agency or political subdivision of the state may not finance the actual construction of a reservoir in the designated segment, excepting projects designated as alternatives in the 2011 and 2016 Region L Water Plans. Also excepts construction, operation, and maintenance of weirs, water diversion, flood control, drainage, water supply systems, low water crossings, or recreational facilities.

COMMITTEE: Environmental Regulation

TIME & DATE: 8:00 AM, Tuesday, May 05, 2015 PLACE: E1.026

**HB 2425** Rodriguez / **SB 1450** - Ellis Relating to water quality improvement and pollution reduction through beverage container recycling incentives; assessing a fee; providing penalties; creating a criminal offense. This bill would add a chapter to the Health and Safety Code to create a Texas Beverage Container Recycling Incentive Program. The program would create a consortium to require a beverage container to have a refund value which could be collected at a "Redemption center", a manned operation or a mechanical device that accepts empty beverage containers and issues a cash refund or a redeemable credit slip with a value not less than the container's refund value.

A note of support to the authors of these bills and your own representative is well deserved.

Hope you are enjoying the lovely weather and have a great weekend!

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director

[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)