

Dear GEAA members and friends in Senator Donna Campbell's district (Dist. 25),

We just learned that two very bad bills ([SB 1918](#) and [SB 1919](#)) were filed yesterday by [Senator Donna Campbell](#). We did not believe that anyone could file statewide bills after the March 8th deadline. But yesterday, on a motion from Senator Whitmire that passed by unanimous consent, [this rule](#) was [suspended to permit the introduction of Senate Bills 1914 – 1919](#). (1914 – 1917 are on subjects that we are not concerned about)

From the way this stunt was orchestrated, it appears that Senator Campbell is quite cozy with vested interests, and is more concerned with filing bills for their benefit than she is with protecting the Edwards Aquifer, our trees and our water.

[SB 1919](#) is similar to Paul Workman's HB 3087 in that it requires the consent of the landowner or condemnation through the exercise of eminent domain for the application of any law, rule, policy, ordinance or regulation promulgated under the Government Code, Local Government Code, Water Code OR Natural Resources Code that has the effect of requiring that more than 55% of the surface area of an owner's private real property remain in a natural or undeveloped state. **If this bill is passed, San Antonio, Austin, and San Marcos would not be able to enforce their Aquifer Protection Ordinances.** The only difference between Campbell's SB 1919 and Workman's HB 3087 is that SB 1919 boosts the "takings" threshold from 50% to 55%.

[SB 1918](#) enhances grandfathering by prohibiting any regulatory agency from enforcing an ordinance, rule, or regulation that places an expiration date on a permit if an application for a site plan is submitted, or if "a good-faith attempt is made to file with a regulatory agency an application for a permit necessary to begin or continue towards completion of the project". **The impact on San Antonio is developers would have even more leeway in ignoring our Aquifer Protection and Tree Preservation ordinances.**

Senator Campbell's staffer, Bonnie Bruce, has informed us that they intend to have a hearing on these bills on Monday (5/6) in Senate State Affairs Committee. Campbell is advancing the bills based on property rights issues. She says that SB 1919 is a bit different than Rep Workman's (55% v 50%), but that small distinction really makes no difference for our purposes (Edwards Recharge Zone impervious limits are 80% and 85%/70% respectively).

Those of you in Senator Campbell's district, please [contact her](#) to express your displeasure with the underhanded way she filed SB 1918 and SB 1919 after the filing deadline, and strongly urge her to withdraw these bad bills.

We need a Senator that represents our interests. That does not appear to be Senator Donna Campbell.

Thank you for taking action on this important issue!

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director

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