

Alamo, Austin, and Lone Star chapters of the Sierra Club  
Bexar Audubon Society  
Bexar Green Party  
Boerne Together  
Bulverde Neighborhood Alliance  
Cibolo Nature Center  
Citizens Allied for Smart Expansion  
Citizens for the Protection of Cibolo Creek  
Comal County Conservation Alliance  
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  
Green Society of UTSA  
Guadalupe River Road Alliance  
Guardians of Lick Creek  
Headwaters at Incarnate Word  
Helotes Heritage Association  
Hill Country Planning Association  
Kendall County Well Owners Association  
Kinney County Ground Zero  
Leon Springs Business Association  
Medina County Environmental Action  
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 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  
Water Aid – Texas State University  
West Texas Springs Alliance  
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation  
Wimberley Valley Watershed Association

April 12, 2019

Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee  
Chair: Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr.  
Vice Chair: Sen. Charles Schwertner  
Members: Sen. Carol Alvarado  
Sen. Donna Campbell  
Sen. Pat Fallon  
Sen. José Menéndez  
Sen. Robert Nichols

RE: S.B. 2078

Honorable Members of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee,

On behalf of our 52 member organizations and thousands of individual members, the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) strongly opposes S.B. 2078 relating to restrictions on municipal regulation in certain areas.


The citizens that GEAA represents overwhelmingly support application of San Antonio's tree protection and water quality ordinances in the ETJ. Land development patterns existing within the area that is subject to this legislation (410,000 acres governed by San Antonio's tree preservation ordinance and 46,000 acres governed by its aquifer protection ordinance) have largely complied with San Antonio regulations. New development that does not comply with San Antonio's tree preservation and water quality ordinances would not be compatible with existing land uses.

To change the rules at this point would decrease the quality of life and property values of those currently residing within the area. Trees serve to reduce flooding and add to property values. Stormwater management is a serious issue within this area, part of the notorious "Flash Flood Alley" that is among the areas most at risk of flooding in the U.S.A. Other efforts undertaken during this legislative session devote substantial resources to address stormwater management. SB 2078 would, we believe, undermine these efforts within this vulnerable area.

San Antonio's water quality ordinances not only protect San Antonio's water supply, they also protect the quality of water issuing from Comal Springs and the groundwater supplies of households that rely on private wells.

Many similar attempts have been made during past legislative sessions to nullify ability of municipalities to apply local ordinances within ETJ's. All were ultimately defeated. Likewise, we urge you to scrap S.B. 2078. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Respectfully,



Annalisa Peace, Executive Director