



Dear GEAA members and friends,

Thanks to a deluge of calls, Senator Troy Fraser has pledged to strip the Bonnen amendment from his SB 875. This was a huge victory for all Texans, and we have all of you who responded by contacting your State Senators to thank. Thanks, as well, go out to the Alliance for a Clean Texas, the Texas League of Conservation Voters, Public Citizen, the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, Environment Texas, and others who are at the Capitol every day working to promote good bills and kill bad actions such as this one.

Again, thank you!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Annalisa Peace
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Sponsor of Texas Senate bill to strip controversial legal protections for industry

By THEODORE KIM, Staff Writer, tkim@dallasnews.com, Published 26 May 2011 11:36 PM

AUSTIN — Facing a swelling public outcry, the sponsor of an amended environmental bill that would have given broad legal protections to most industries pledged Thursday to strip out the provision.

The move by Sen. Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay, came a day after a bipartisan collection of lawmakers, as well as groups representing local governments and other interests, tried to block the proposal over concerns that last-minute changes to the bill were too far-reaching.

Fraser's original bill would effectively shield industries from lawsuits related to greenhouse gas emissions. The House amended the bill Tuesday to extend many of those legal protections to virtually any industry that undergoes the state permitting process.

The amendment, offered by Rep. Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, went all but unnoticed on Tuesday, with a busy legislative deadline looming. But it generated a heated discussion in the House on Wednesday when lawmakers of both parties unsuccessfully tried to strip Bonnen's amendment from the bill.

Fraser said he plans to discard Bonnen's amendment in a conference committee.

"It's created controversy. It's being opposed by many groups and cities," Fraser said.

Bonnen's proposal would have protected most industries from lawsuits founded on accusations of nuisance or trespassing, charges commonly used in pollution cases.