



*Dear GEAA members and friends,*

*GEAA is working with Texas Campaign for the Environment and others to defeat a bad bill that will be voted on tomorrow. Your help is greatly appreciated!*

*Annalisa Peace, Executive Director, GEAA*

## **Tell Your State Representative: Protect Our Land, Water and Property Values**

### **Critical Vote Tomorrow**

Heads up: The Texas House is set to vote tomorrow, May 7th, on one of the worst waste bills we've seen so far. This bad bill would allow for liquid sludge waste, often mixed with toxic materials, to be dumped on the ground without a permit and without public notice. We need you to speak out today by contacting your State Representative. Urge them to reject this proposal!

**[Click here to send a message to your State Representative!](#)**

### **Weakening Environmental Standards, Public Participation**

Currently, liquid waste companies are not allowed to dump grease and grit trap waste—which can include toxic heavy metals and petrochemicals from automotive repair shops and car washes—on the ground as a “land application.” These rules were put in place in 2003 to protect our land and water.

However, House Bill 2996 would reverse this and allow companies to dump potentially hazardous liquid wastes onto the ground without a permit. Companies would only need to register with the state environmental agency and notify landowners whose property borders theirs. There would be few public meetings and no opportunity for residents, businesses and local governments to present evidence in front of a neutral administrative law judge. The bill even eliminates certain insurance requirements for these companies, which increases the likelihood that taxpayers will have to pay for any clean-ups that become necessary.

**Tell your State Representative to Vote NO on HB 2996, and protect our land and water from liquid waste!**

This bad bill is scheduled for a vote in the Texas House on Tuesday, May 7th. We need you to contact your State Representative and urge them to vote NO! Take action now.

Imagine spending your life savings on a piece of property and building your dream home. Now imagine an industry dumping toxic liquid waste next door that emits horrible odors—so bad that you are unable to go outside and enjoy your property. If this bill passes, property owners, businesses and local governments will have far less power to prevent such a situation. You can make a difference. Use your voice today!

Sincerely,

Robin Schneider  
Executive Director

**Sample email to Representatives as displayed on [our website](#):**

*I am writing to urge you to protect our land, water and private property rights by opposing House Bill 2996.*

*We should not weaken our standards for disposing of potentially hazardous liquid waste materials. Grease and grit trap wastes, automotive repair shop and car wash wastes often contain toxic heavy metals and petrochemicals. Allowing this to be dumped on the ground without a permit and without robust public participation would strip residents, businesses and local governments of their rights to protect property values and quality of life.*

*This bill even eliminates certain insurance requirements, which increases the likelihood that my tax dollars will go to pay for any clean-ups that become necessary. We need you to vote NO on HB 2996.*

*Thank you for your consideration."*

***You can always keep up with interesting water news on [GEAA's Face Book page](#) and, you can mail contributions to support GEAA to PO Box 15618, San Antonio, Texas 78212***