



Dear GEAA members and friends,

[House Bill 3557](#) - aimed at silencing protests against polluting facilities like pipelines - is most likely going to become law. How bad it will be is still to be determined.

HB 3557 will create new felony offenses for certain actions against “critical infrastructure” (including pipelines and other oil and gas facilities). **This is a terrible bill and its purpose is to silence opposition to polluting industry. We’ve been working hard to stop it, but now all we can do is damage control - trying to make the bill a little less terrible.**

Peaceful protest is different than damaging and destroying property, and we like the law to respect that distinction. Defacement - such as graffiti or applying a sticker - should also be treated differently than actually damaging property.

We’re also concerned about the fine for organizations. A \$500,000 fine would wipe out many nonprofit organizations.

The Texas House and Senate passed different versions of the bill, so a conference committee of House and Senate members will come up with final language.

**Please contact [the conference committee members now](#)** to ask them:

"Please support the Senate language in HB 3557 that removed the felony penalties for non-violent peaceful actions at critical infrastructure facilities. In addition, don't over-penalize organizations that support peaceful actions that don't cause damage."

[This link](#) will send a message to all the committee members. Or, you can call them individually:

Rep. Joe Moody (D-El Paso): 512-463-00728 /

Rep. Jeff Leach (R-Plano): 512-463-0544

Rep. Chris Paddie, Chair (R-Marshall): 512-463-0556

Rep. Tom Craddick (R-Midland): 512-463-0500  
Rep. Erin Zwiener (D-Driftwood): 512-463-0647

Sen. Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury): 512-463-0122  
Sen. Pat Fallon (R-Prosper) 512-463-0130  
Sen. Peter Flores (R-Pleasanton) 512-463-0119  
Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) 512-463-0120  
Sen. Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola) 512-463-0101

Monday is the last day (we hope!) of the 86th Legislative Session. A big thanks to all of you who have stepped up to speak up this session! Stay tuned for GEAA's legislative report card to learn how your representative and senator voted on our issues.

Have a great Memorial Day weekend!

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director  
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)