



Dear GEAA members and friends,

Good news comes better late than never! Thanks to your overwhelming response and the heroic efforts of a great team of Texas tree defenders, the worst of the tree bills are history for now.

[House Bill 7](#) becomes effective on December 1, 2017. This bill is similar to SB 744, which was [vetoed by Governor Abbott](#) during the regular session. HB 7 puts limits on approximately 130 tree ordinances in Texas by reducing fees cities can charge developers and, in some cases, homeowners for excessive tree removal. So, Abbott's attempt to deprive Texas cities of all authority to preserve trees was foiled for now. The House basically handed him his hat and he put it on.

This could never have happened without help of legislators on both sides of the aisle who listened to you and acted accordingly. (And, shame on those who did not.)

Speaking of working across the aisle, national polling data indicates something that GEAA members have known for a long time – that there is no partisan divide over our desire to protect our water resources. [Read the opinions on this](#) from a top polling expert.

When you go to the polls for [primary voting](#) in February/March 2018, please be sure that the candidates you vote for understand and respect that the property rights of a few vested interests do not take precedence over clean water and healthy communities.

This is especially important as we are already working to resurrect legislation to [protect our Hill Country waterways from sewage effluent discharges](#) and to help [Hill Country counties cope with incompatible land uses](#) in 2019. We will need elected officials who are willing to defend our values more than ever if we are to preserve the things we all love about our piece of Texas.

Because of the special session, we are a bit behind in releasing our legislative report card. Stay tuned to learn how your state elected officials performed.

Again, thank you to all of you who made your voices heard this summer. And, special thanks to all of you who renewed your GEAA memberships and to the [Save Barton Creek Association](#) for contributing to GEAA's legislative efforts.

Hope Harvey treats you well this weekend and that you all remain safe and sound!

Annalisa Peace

Executive Director
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

You can donate to GEAA [on line](#) or mail a check to PO Box 15618, San Antonio, Texas 78212

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