

Member Organizations Act Now Comal Alamo, Austin, and Lone Star chapters of the Sierra Club **Bexar Audubon Society** Bexar and Travis-Austin Green Parties **Bexar Grotto Boerne Together** Bulverde Neighborhood Alliance Bulverde Neighborhoods for Clean Water Cibolo Center for Conservation Citizens for the Protection of Cibolo Creek Coalition for Responsible Environmental Aggregate Mining (CREAM) **Comal Conservation Comfort Neighbors Congregation of Divine Providence Environment Texas** First Universalist Unitarian Church of SA **Fitzhugh Neighbors** Friends of Canyon Lake Friends of Castroville Regional Park Friends of Government Canyon Fuerza Unida Green Society of UTSA **Guadalupe Riverkeepers** Guadalupe River Road Alliance **Guardians of Lick Creek** Hays Residents for Land & Water Protection Headwaters at Incarnate Word Helotes Heritage Association Hill Country Alliance Kerr County Water Alliance Kendall County Well Owners Association Las Moras Springs Association Leon Springs Business Association Llano River Watershed Alliance Native Plant Society of Texas -- NB Native Plant Society of Texas - SA Northwest Interstate Coalition of Neighborhoods Pedernales River Alliance – Gillespie Co. Preserve Castroville Preserve Lake Dunlop Association Preserve Our Hill Country Environment River Aid San Antonio San Antonio Audubon Society San Antonio Conservation Society 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 (SAFE) **SEED Coalition** Signal Hill Area Alliance Solar San Antonio **Texans for Environmental Awareness Texas Cave Management Association** Trinity Edwards Spring Protection Assoc. Water Aid – Texas State University Watershed Association Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation PO Box 15618 San Antonio, Texas 78212

(210) 320-6294 www. AquiferAlliance.org April 26, 2025

State Affairs Committee Chair Rep. Ken King
Vice Chair Rep. Ana Hernandez
And Members: Rep. Rafael Anchía, Rep. Drew Darby, Rep. Yvonne Davis, Rep. Charlie
Geren, Rep. Ryan Guillen, Rep. Lacey Hull, Rep. John W. McQueeney,
Rep. Will Metcalf, Rep. Dade Phelan, Rep. Richard Peña Raymond,
Rep. John T. Smithee, Rep. Senfronia Thompson, Rep. Chris Turner

Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Affairs,

I am writing on behalf of the sixty-two member organizations of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) to urge you to vote against <u>HB 4852</u>.

<u>HB 4852</u> gives the Texas Attorney General sweeping new powers to target nonprofits and businesses. This bill would allow the Attorney General to demand internal records, compel sworn statements, and even shut down organizations—all without court approval or proof of wrongdoing.

The hundreds of non-profits operating in Texas provide valuable services and should be encouraged in their work – not threatened with criminal penalties as this bill provides.

Texas non-profits find funding for research that helps inform your decisions on the important matters facing our state – at no cost to the state. Groups like Texas 2030, Texas Living Waters, GEAA, and dozens of other advocacy groups help you sort through the issues by instituting studies on a variety of issues that are critical to the wellbeing of the state, our economy, and your constituents. Why would you want to mess with that?

Texas non-profits provide a conduit to the preferences of your constituents. For example, GEAA advocates for policy decisions that are endorsed by 100% consensus of our diverse member groups. When we adopt a position, it represents the consensus of over 50,000 Texans from all walks of life and all political affiliations. We sort out some of the difficult decisions that you are faced with and provide a firm basis of support for your actions when it comes to protecting and conserving our water resources. Why would you want to mess with that?

We cannot ignore that many extreme bills have been filed this session. HB 4852 / SB 2340 fall under this category. Your vote on these bills will determine whether Texas gives tools to the extremely partisan to go after those they disagree with or, whether Texas is governed in a manner that represents and includes all Texans.

Do not mess with Texas non-profits. We urge you to vote NO on HB 4852 / SB 2340.

Respectfully,

Annalisa Peace, Executive Director and Rachel Hanes, Policy Director