

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 631

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Hearing Date: March 15, 2021 2:00 PM

Joyce Thoresen

Walnut Place Neighborhood

Austin, TX

As a Texas resident who has lived near landfills in Travis County for more than 40 years, I oppose any legislation making it more difficult/impossible for local government to regulate location of waste facilities. I would support legislation giving counties more land use authority. I moved into this neighborhood before landfills came to occupy nearby properties. We have been subjected to odors, creek pollution, garbage trucks, and loss in property value because of these landfills. Neighborhoods need help to keep waste facilities out of areas they cause health and safety issues for those nearby. I am against HB 631. It is a step backward in protection of our environment and our residents.

Raul Olvera

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 631. After dealing with ACL I realize how these places care little about the surrounding communities.

Patton King

Lazy K Ranch in Caldwell County

Katy, TX

Since September 2013 I have been working to stop the 130 Environmental Park Landfill in Caldwell County by Lockhart, Texas where we take pride in our local BBQ. This is a very difficult task to stop big money in the pollution pile business. Common sense seems to be often forgotten in the permit process. House Bill 631 is a bad bill as it is another example of harm to We the People. Please do not remove what little control features our counties and our cities now have.

Thank you.

Patton King

Lazy K Ranch Since before 1939

Lockhart, Texas

Mark Aflatooni

self, Business Analyst

Austin, TX

OPPOSE. I urge the committee to require waste facilities to follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever and have lasting impacts, there is no reason to carve out a special exemption for them not to follow building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws.

Clifford May, Mr

Printed on: March 25, 2021 8:48 AM

May Family Office

Austin, TX

OPPOSE

Teresa Becker

Self

Dripping Springs, TX

I oppose the passage of this bill, for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is allowing just one entity to control the approval of new landfills.

Alyssa Melton

Self

Arlington, TX

I strongly oppose HB 631. HB 631 would strip away any local authority to have any kind of say. I believe that waste companies needs to apply for and follow any local or county ordinance, just like every other company has to do. They should not get a special exemption from following local laws.

Harley Eckhart

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I oppose this bill as written. Waste companies and waste facilities should follow local rules and ordinances just like any other company or business.

Cheryl Robison, Ms

Self, retired

Fort Worth, TX

This is not something that should be decided on the state level. It affects local life and quality of life, which the state isn't privy to. All issues of this type must be kept at the local level of decision making.

Carolyn Jacobs

self

Houston, TX

OPPOSE! Trash companies should be required to follow local ordinances just like other businesses. Construction of waste facilities has an enormous and lasting impact on local communities and permitting decisions should not be made by a distant authority.

Evelyn Aubrey Case

Self. Homemaker.

Austin, TX

OPPOSE! STRONGLY!! Shame on you for promoting such a bill.

Printed on: March 25, 2021 8:48 AM

Beaumont, TX

Oppose

Solid waste facilities should be subject to regulations just as other businesses. Cities and counties as well as citizens should have input regarding such facilities. Potential for flooding and amount of pollution an area is already subjected to should be considered. Texas is in danger of becoming America's dump as waste facilities will import solid waste from out of state as is happening with radioactive waste. "Don't mess with Texas" will become "Bring Texas your mess!"

Nikhil Batra

Self

Austin, TX

Oppose! No more garbage. The world is moving to zero waste and Texas should lead!

Carrie Schweitzer

Self

Dallas, TX

Dear Members of House Environmental Regulation Committee:

I oppose HB631. Right now, in most instances a trash company has to apply for building permits or floodplain permits from local authorities before they're allowed to start construction. HB 631 would strip away that authority. Instead, receiving a permit from TCEQ would, for all intents and purposes, supersede applicable requirements in city or county code. I urge the committee to require waste facilities to follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever and have lasting impacts, there is no reason to carve out a special exemption for them not to follow building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws. Elected officials of Texas cities, counties and communities can best determine their quality of life for their jurisdiction. We do not want local decisions to be usurped!

Thank you,

Carrie Schweitzer

Wayne Stalsworth, Mr.

Self

Seguin, TX

[illegible]

Pam Evans

Select Title

Kemp, TX

"OPPOSE." Urge the committee to require waste facilities to follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever and have lasting impacts, there is no reason to carve out a special exemption for them not to follow building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws.

Trevor Robinson

Printed on: March 25, 2021 8:48 AM

self

Austin, TX

OPPOSE. Waste facilities should follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever and have lasting impacts, so there is no reason to carve out a special exemption for them not to follow building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws.

charles Rives

Self

Denton, TX

OPPOSE." I want to urge the committee to require waste facilities to follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever and have lasting impacts on local communities and counties and there is no reason to carve out a special exemption for anyone to not follow building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws. I hope that you will not support HB 631.

Janelle Murphy

Self, biologist

Galveston, TX

Oppose. Waste facilities should have to follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever and have lasting impacts, there is no reason to carve out a special exemption for them not to follow building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws.

Charles Lucas

Self

Colleyville, TX

Texas is slowly eroding local control if the money is big enough. Local citizens and governments are best able to determine what is best and safest for their livelihood and health. Burying trash across the state in new locations is a short sighted solution that will harm the state in the long run.

Quinta Wilkinson, Ms

Me as a citizen!

Wichita Falls, TX

Stop letting big corporations mess with our city and our choices!

Garry Kramchak, Mr.

Self

Houston, TX

Only certain rural areas outside the city limits should be designated as future solid waste landfill locations. Local governments need to regulate these locations, not state agencies.

Kathryn Davidson, Mrs.

Self

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Austin, TX

OPPOSE." I Urge the committee to require waste facilities to follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever and have lasting impacts, there is no reason to carve out a special exemption for them not to follow building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws.

Lillian Rodriguez, Mrs

Self

Driftwood, TX

I oppose this bill and urge you to do the same. Counties and cities should have a say, they should not lose that.

Darren Huff

self Consulting

Round Rock, TX

OPPOSE. Require waste facilities to follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever, and have lasting impacts. There is no net benefit to Texas voters by carving out a special exemption for waste facilities to not follow building permits, floodplain ordinances, or other local laws.

Richard Guldi

Dallas Sierra Club

Dallas, TX

This bill is horrific! Texans don't want the state to prevent local authorities from regulating pollution. Remember TCEQ is the "regulating agency" that gave us lead smelters, the Lane Plating Superfund site, Shingle Mountain, and oil and gas disasters all over the state. Human beings suffer when polluters are free to poison our air, water, and climate. Taxpayers have to pay for all the cleanups and health problems, while Big Polluters walk away with their ill gotten profits, and then finance unscrupulous politicians who let them do anything they darn well want to. This is disgraceful, and it must stop now!

Thomas Reid Smith, Mr.

Smith Ranch

Cleveland, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill.

Sarah Laird

self, retired teacher

New Braunfels, Texas, TX

I oppose this bill as it weakens the authority of local government, and it is the local community most affected by solid waste facilities in the immediate area.

Beverly Walker, Ms

self, retired

Kingsland, TX

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OPPOSE We must find real ways to stop pollution before it is farmed out to destroy small communities and environments. Please listen to non-partisan experts, not the corporations which will profit

John Beard

PACAN

Port Arthur, TX

I /we are opposed to this bill as it limits, removes local control from citizens.

TCEQ isn't capable nor able up control or enforce restrictions to protect people and the environment, and shouldn't be entrusted with such enforcement powers.

Keep local control!

Mary Bright

Self - Retired

San Antonio, TX

Oppose HB 631: Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. Local jurisdictions know their local situation, which differs from place to place.

Carol Moser

Self Retired

Port Arthur, TX

OPPOSE. Waste facilities should follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas.

R. Detrice Jackson

self

Nederland, TX

I OPPOSE this HB 631 this will undo burden on the health of individuals of our communities, and cause MAJOR new onset health problems in infants, children, adults and elderly. DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

Patricia White

Self

Beaumont, TX

Vehemently opposed to Bill 631. Every community in Texas 254 Counties should take priority over any outside entity when building or constructing anything, such as a Landfill, that could have a profound effect on their standard(s) of living.

A Patterson

Myself - as 4th generation Texan, taxpayer & voter

Dallas, TX

I absolutely OPPOSE this bill HB 631

and URGE the committee to require waste facilities to follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever and have LASTING DAMAGING IMPACTS, there is NO reason to carve out a special exemption for them NOT to follow building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws.

Printed on: March 25, 2021 8:48 AM

Catherine Croom, Ms.

self - retired teacher

Bulverde, TX

OPPOSE

Please require waste facilities to follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever and have lasting impacts on local communities, there is no reason to carve out a special exemption for them to not follow building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws. Right now, in most instances a trash company has to apply for building permits or floodplain permits from local authorities before they're allowed to start construction. This is appropriate and what should happen. Local community laws, permitting and ordinances should have to be followed by waste facilities. Please oppose HB 631 which would strip away that authority. A permit from TCEQ should not supersede applicable requirements in city or county code.

Georgia Keysor

Self - Retired

Austin, TX

My name is Georgia Keysor, I'm live in Austin, 78757. I am writing because I am concerned about House Bill 631. If this bill passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of local residents about their health and safety. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631. Thank you.

Carolyn Croom, Ms.

Self, retired

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 631. I urge the committee to require waste facilities to follow local ordinances just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities have lasting impacts on a local community, and a community has a right to require businesses to follow local law. There is no reason to carve out a special exemption for them not to follow building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws. Garbage companies should not be allowed to build facilities with virtually no local input. Please do not report this bill favorably to the House. Thank you.

Rachel Vallejo Carneglia

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Rachel . I am a Texan living in Austin in 78745. I am writing because I am concerned about House Bill 631. If this bill passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of local residents about their health and safety. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631. Thank you!

Karen Collins

Self retired rancher

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Austin, TX

I oppose HB 631 by Darby because once a landfill, ALWAYS a landfill and those of us having to live with decisions like this must have a say. If this bill passes my local government will not have a say in its operation much less its location and construction. Local residents need a voice when their clean water and health and safety of their children are concerned. And I can tell you the truck traffic is deadly at worst and dangerous at best. State government should not override our concerns. Local ordinance should be followed. Please vote no on this bill.

Marieke Lahey

self - engineer

Houston, TX

Why would it ever make sense to take away local control over where trash is dumped? How does this bill make any sense? Who will be profiting off of this bill? Local residents and local governments need to have the ability to influence LOCAL matters, like where trash is dumped. Solid waste can impact soil, air, and water quality, all of which impact the health of residents. Does this legislative body care more about the lobbyists that are pushing this bill than they care about the PEOPLE of TEXAS??? Whoever is pushing this bill should be ashamed of themselves. You are servants of the people of Texas. Do your goddamned job. Kill this bill in committee and save yourselves the embarrassment of it ever getting national attention.

Mary Cato, Ms

self - retired

Arlington, TX

OPPOSE HB 631 - The House Environmental Regulation Committee should require waste facilities to follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever and have lasting impacts, there is no reason to carve out a special exemption for them not to follow building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws. Right now, in most instances a trash company has to apply for building permits or floodplain permits from local authorities before they're allowed to start construction. HB 631 would strip away that authority. Instead, receiving a permit from TCEQ would, for all intents and purposes, supersede applicable requirements in city or county code. This is an attack against the power of local communities to determine their quality of life, and an example of intervention in neighborhood or community matters to benefit polluters.

John Tate, Mr.

self (retired)

Austin, TX

OPPOSING HB 631: Please do not report HB 631 favorably to the House. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances just like other businesses do in Texas. They have lasting impacts on a local community, and a community should be able to require businesses to follow local law. There is no reason to carve out a special exemption from building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws that might go beyond what TCEQ rules require. Thank you for your kind attention.

Lisa Efthymiou

Self - Workflow Strategist

Keller, TX

My name is Lisa Efthymiou. I am a Texan living in [city]. My zip code is 76248. I am [calling/writing] because I am concerned about House Bill 631. If this bill passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of local residents about their health and safety. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631. Thank you!

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Cynthia Lesky

Self / Retired

Austin, TX

As I understand it, if House Bill 631 passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of local residents about their health and safety. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and government is essential. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. Please vote NO on HB631.

Thank you!

Sean Hunt, Mr.

self, landscape architect

Argyle, TX

OPPOSE. I urge the committee to require waste facilities to follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever and have lasting impacts, there is no reason to carve out a special exemption for them not to follow building permits, floodplain ordinances or other local laws.

Janet Dudding

Self

Bryan, TX

OPPOSED

Dorothy Compton

self

Austin, TX

My name is Annie Compton. I am a Texan living in Austin. My zip code is 78757 I am writing because I am concerned about House Bill 631.

If this bill passes, my family's local governments will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of us local residents about our health and the HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN

Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions.

Once constructed, a landfill is a permanent fixture in a community. Landfills operate for decades, not just years. And they are not dismantled once operations cease

If a landfill creates an environmental problem for a community, it could well be a problem forever.

The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631. Thank you!"

Heiko Stang

Self

Wimberley, TX

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I live in a rural area of Texas and depend on our well for drinking water. Therefore I OPPOSE HB 631.

Landfills are permanent entities once constructed and leaks are a common occurrence. Any such leaks pose a threat to the drinking water of local residents. Moreover, smells and noise from landfills and the increased traffic from heavy trucks can also negatively impact the health of those nearby.

Local governments reflect the will of residents and should always have a say in the siting, construction and operation of landfills. Please vote NO on HB 631.

Arthur Simon

self, artist

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because local authorities must be able to have a say in the regulation of solid waste.

David Hogan

self

Austin, TX

Please oppose HB 631 which would weaken local control for locating new trash facilities. Garbage companies need to abide by local building regulations just like other companies. Local citizens know best how to control their land use. I am particularly concerned about how landfills could pollute ground water.

Thanks,
David Hogan

Anil Prabhakar

self; engineer

Cedar Park, TX

I am writing because I am concerned about House Bill 631. If this bill passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of local residents about their health and safety. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631. Thank you!

Lisa Phillips

self

Houston, TX

The locations of solid waste facilities should be controlled by local governments. The state legislature should not interfere with local decisions. Deregulation has caused Texans enough pain and suffering this year.

Suzanne Mitchell

Texas Democrats

Austin, TX

OPPOSE. Local authorities must be able to have a say in the regulation of solid waste.

Marlene Lobberecht

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self

Houston, TX

I oppose this bill. This would remove city and county control over future site waste locations and gives authorization to TCEQ. Why should TCEQ get a start-up say? TCEQ has not cleaned up any superfund mess and passed it off to the EPA. Please require waste facilities to follow local ordinance just like other businesses do in Texas. Waste facilities can be forever and have lasting impacts, there is no reason to carve out a special exemption for them not to follow building permits.

Nina Brodsky

self

Austin, TX

If this bill passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of local residents about their health and safety. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631. Thank you!"

Brenda Jurgens

Resident

ALEDO, TX

I am opposed to taking this authority away from local control. Vehemently opposed. This might not seem like a big deal in large urban areas, but it is in rural areas. I live in Parker County and we are handling this fine.

Sarah Murphy, Voter

Self

Houston, TX

I am a Texan living in Houston. I am writing because I am concerned about House Bill 631. If this bill passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of local residents about their health and safety. This is one of many ecological hazards that often go unnoticed but can have serious ramifications on public health for hundreds and thousands of families over time. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631. Thank you!

sharon kremer

Indivisible Tx Lege

Denton, TX

I oppose HB631. Removing local control from municipalities undermines democracy. Cities know their needs and situations more accurately than state government. Municipalities understand their needs, constraints and complexities. Citizens hav selected officials who best understand local complexities. By removing local control, the state government is undermining the power of votes. Democracy cannot function when it is attacked by the state.

Deanie Allen

self-retired part time reading tutor

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Kingwood, TX

My name is Deanie Allen. I am a Texan living in Kingwood, part of Houston. My zip code is 77345. I am writing because I am concerned about House Bill 631. If this bill passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of local residents about their health and safety. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631. Thank you!

Alexander Montalvo

self

Fort Worth, TX

I am a Texan living in Fort Worth, TX. My zip code is 76116. I am writing because I am concerned about House Bill 631. If this bill passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of local residents about their health and safety. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631. Thank you!

Cyral Miller

Austin TX

Austin, TX

My name is Cyral Miller. I live in Austin, zip code 78756. I am [writing to ask you to vote against House Bill 631. If this bill passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The owners and operators of these landfills could override important concerns of local residents about their health and safety. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631. Thank you!"

Jo Williams

self

Galveston, TX

I am concerned about House Bill 631. If this bill passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of local residents about their health and safety. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631. Thank you!

Sandra Montalvo

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I ask that the House Committee for Environmental Regulations vote NO to HB 631. Cities and local authorities need to stay involved in the decisions of where a landfill is placed. Landfills pose a danger to the soil and groundwater. Water contamination is an immediate threat to residents, and if built in or close to floodplains, landfills would exacerbate this contamination. Noise, smells and an increase in vermin can also negatively impact the health of local communities. Again please vote NO to HB 631. Thank you!

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Tammie Hartgroves, Honorable
Precinct 63 in McLennan County
McGregor, TX

I am concerned about the language of this bill. I live near where the city wanted to expand our current landfill. We already have days where the odors from the existing landfill are quite putrid and the proposed expansion would have created environmental concerns, such as, toxic substances seeping into Lake Waco via the South Bosque River and birds being in the flight path for the McGregor airport. Please let cities and municipalities control their own landfills with the TECQ oversight.

Jackie Medcalf
Texas Health and Environment Alliance
Houston, TX

OPPOSE. Texas Health and Environment Alliance strongly urges the House Environmental Regulation Committee to require solid waste facilities to follow local ordinances. Solid waste facilities should not be exempt from building permits, floodplain ordinances or any other local laws. TCEQ should not have total authorization of local regulation. In contrast, THEA strongly believes state and local government agencies should have a hand in the control of solid waste facility permitting, location authorization, and management. Receiving a TCEQ permit should not supersede the established requirements or future city and county requirements/regulations in regard to waste location and management.

Jeffrey Travillion
self-Travis County Commissioner
Hutto, TX

My name is Jeffrey Travillion and I am the Travis County Commissioner of Precinct 1. Precinct 1 covers the Northeastern quadrant of Travis County. Traditionally, the eastern quadrant of the county is where most landfills in the county are located. Until the late 1970s, the community members of area had no meaningful input on the policy decisions affecting them from the perspective of health and safety. Numerous landfills were created in an unsecured and what can be described today as an unsafe manner. I understand the Committee's desire to create uniform standards for local jurisdictions, which will allow businesses to function effectively. This is an admirable goal; however, that goal should include maintaining the health and safety of communities and correcting practices which subject neighborhoods to risk and continued economic disadvantage because of sub-standard design.

Travis County has worked with community members and business interests to insure the understand the challenges and risks of landfill development and expansion, particularly when the development is located in close proximity to residential communities. A unanimous Commissioner's Court strengthened the Waste Siting Ordinance in Travis County. The Court wanted to ensure that existing landfills would not be expanded without recognizing concerns from both a historical perspective and with a nod to future growth. A company asked to expand operations over an area which was built before basic lining and other health and safety protocols were in place. Today, an area which is exploding in residential growth is subjected to the pollution associated with thousands of barrels of industrial waste, placed over underground springs. This expansion has the capacity to poison the water supply for an entire region and stymie future economic development in this region of the county.

Local policymakers and our constituents understand that every community must be prepared to ensure adequate capacity for waste management. We also believe that Health and Safety Standards require the consideration of actions that can be taken to mitigate risks and correct problems when we have the technology to resolve them. Public meetings are only meaningful when the results of those meetings achieve the health and safety goals of impacted communities.

My concern is that HB 631 will do little to improve the quality of life for my constituents. Rather than reaffirming a collaborative relationship between local governments and solid waste providers, this legislation threatens to circumvent our input. We know that these facilities are vital to a community, but the correct approach is not to limit our review but to encourage a permitting process that helps us build better, safer, and smarter communities together.

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Miranda Noren, Miss
self / Cedar Park High School Environmental Club President

Cedar Park, TX

My name is Miranda Noren. I am a Texan living in Cedar Park, Texas. My zip code is 78613. I am writing because I am concerned about House Bill 631. If this bill passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of local residents about their health and safety. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631! Thank you.

Mary Montalvo
Self

Fort Worth, TX

My name is Mary Montalvo. I am a Texan living in Fort Worth. My zip code is 76116 I am writing because I am concerned about House Bill 631. If this bill passes, my local government will no longer have a say in the location, construction, and operation of landfills. The interests of the owners and operators of these landfills could override the legitimate concerns of local residents about their health and safety. Landfills can put groundwater at risk and lead to more traffic and higher incidents of deadly collisions. The input of local citizens and governments is essential in these matters. Waste facilities should follow local ordinances. I urge you to VOTE NO on HB 631. Thank you!"

Janet Dudding
Self

Bryan, TX

OPPOSED

Lisa Gossett
Self -- as an individual and not on behalf of any employer. Licensed as an attorney
Houston, TX

I do not support HB 631. It limits the accountability of hazardous and municipal waste facilities -- while if anything there needs to be more transparency and accountability in processing such applications. The involvement of local governments such as cities and counties, should be encouraged rather than limited as we work to construct better facilities that will address our state's disposal needs while minimizing future problems that create problems that are much easier and less costly to address at the front end. More accountability also better protects the public health. Lisa Gossett

Nazia Farishta
Great hearts Irving
Carrollton, TX

Great hearts Irving best school

Joanne McCay
Self
Hempstead, TX

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Good afternoon, A group of citizens with whom I was involved spent over 7 years trying to alert the TCEQ that the site an applicant selected for a landfill would result in contamination of our precious groundwater. This was common knowledge locally but, until a flooding of the property occurred after one of those typical Texas torrential rains evidenced by spewing piezometers, local input was disregarded in preference of the out of state applicant. Instead of coming up with a bill to make life easier for applicants to build such landfill projects who stand to make a fortune at the detriment of Texas communities, I would be in favor of a bill which would protect your citizens of Texas and make life easier for a community to be heard as the the suitability of a site. As described, an applicant invests a large amount of money (actually, I'd say quite small in the large scheme of things). I wish I had heard about the money people invest in their homes and businesses. Thank you.