

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Agriculture & Livestock
For HB 92

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 9:56 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: March 1, 2023 8:00 AM

Jessica Smith
Self, registered nurse
San Antonio, TX

Homeowners should be allowed to keep hens in a fenced back yard with reasonable restrictions that can be dictated by the HOA, including a limit to the number of hens, whether a rooster would be allowed, a standard of cleanliness to limit smells, and distance from other residential buildings. Hens are typically quieter than other animals allowed on properties, such as dogs, and typically don't leave their immediate shelter area like other animals allowed on properties, such as cats.

There are many reputable studies that show the many benefits of allowing households to have backyard hens. For brevity I will list some of them with bullet points and provide sources at the end.

- Uneaten food in Texas makes up approximately 21% of municipal waste. It also makes up 23% of methane emissions. Allowing backyard chickens helps to curb these numbers.
- Each hen consumes approximately 82.9 pounds of household food scraps a year.
- Chickens produce approximately half of the greenhouse gases produced from the decomposition of food waste in landfills.
- Local, sustainable food source. You get healthy eggs and meat from well-cared-for chickens rather than that from the inhumane chicken industry as it is now.
- Egg-celent (sorry) fertilizer for gardens, leading to even more sustainability and food security.
- These "healthier" eggs contain twice as much Vitamin E and Omega 3 fatty acids than those produced by the chicken/egg industry.
- Chickens eat pests in the yard as well.
- Chickens can make good pets, teaching children important skills in caring for animals and being involved in the creation of their food.
- Chickens are cheep (sorry again)! After the initial cost of the coop and maybe some feed to supplement food scraps, hens more than pay for themselves. Especially with their costs in stores having tripled in the past few months.

Hens contribute so much to a household and the community in general, from being able to provide food security to households to reducing the amount of food scraps that make it to city landfills and their methane emissions. There are many HOAs that withhold the right of a homeowner to have hens in a back yard with rules that are nearly impossible to overturn. We need to have an overarching law that allows homeowners their right to food security while also allowing the HOAs to regulate it within reason to maintain their status quo.

Backyard hens don't just benefit the one, they benefit the many.

Sources:

<https://greensourcedfw.org/articles/food-waste-north-texas-table-free-forum>

Breen, Maureen, "The Value of Backyard Chickens in Reducing Municipal Solid Waste" (2019). West Chester University Doctoral Projects. 33. ?https://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/all_doctoral/33

<https://www.greenamerica.org/green-living/many-benefits-backyard-chickens>

<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/navigation/community/arcadia-and-thp-blog/april-2016/the-top-10-reasons-to-raise-chickens>

Janet Mattern
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Request that the committee support this bill. I live in a community with a homeowners association and with passage of this bill I will have the freedom to install solar panels or have a rain barrel if I should choose. It is important to me that my rights are not restricted on my property.

Melanie Masten
Self, software developer
Cypress, TX

As a visually impaired person who cannot drive, I strongly support the passing of this bill. It will allow me to access the services and walkability that only an HOA neighborhood provides and increase food accessibility. Obtaining food now requires me to pay extra for delivery or ride services, extra planning and time, walking long distances without sidewalks, or reliance on other people.

Chickens are natural complements to a vegetable garden. They can be sustained without feed, foraging for their nutrition and fed kitchen scraps. They are natural pest control, and can speed up the composting process which in turn nourishes the garden.

This bill is not just about chickens, but about giving people the right to provide food, security, and self reliance for their family on the land that they own.

Texas has always been unabashedly independent, it's time that its residents felt that independence on the most granular level.

The passing of this bill will grant me the ability to grow my own meat and vegetables on my own property, I can be afforded the same food security felt by your average person who can drive and can regain some independence that has been stripped from me by factors I cannot control.

Heather Rico
Self
Cypress, TX
I am for this bill

Kim Rocha
Self - San Antonio Backyard Chickens
San Antonio, TX

The last couple of years have shown us how important it is to be able to provide for ourselves. HB 92 gives homeowners the tools necessary to overcome out-of-date and unrealistic restrictions that no longer represent the wishes of Texas Families. The Basics such as Bees, Gardens, Chickens, Rain Barrels, Solar should be available to everyone in Texas. Please support HB92

Rachael Cox
Self
Santa Fe, TX

Please support this bill.

Nichole Montrose
Self
Santa Fe, TX

Home owners need to have the say over what they do on their property, not the government, county or their neighbors

Christopher Schiegg
Self - Construction Management
San Antonio, TX

Please support our right as Texans to be self sufficient and provide for our families. Not only would this help Texans to have better quality food, but it would also allow for education of our children and fun opportunities for future voting Texans.

I'm fortunate enough to live in an area where I CAN raise chickens, but unfortunately not all of my fellow Texans are so lucky. I ask you to speak and vote on behalf of all Texans who are deprived of their right to self sufficiency. I truly believe this can help us as individuals, but also as communities, and bring us together.

So I ask again, please let us have the ability to utilize our land the way it should be used.

God Bless Texas,
Christopher Lance Schiegg

Debbi Geren
Community member
Fredericksburg, TX

I live in the Green Meadows housing edition. I request that chicken & roosters be kept in pens on their owners property, almost Daily, the dry dirt is scattered all over my driveway and front porch from the animals scratching looking for bugs. I am annoyed by being woke up by Roosters crowing in the early am!

Jessica Bundy
Self
Katy, TX

I used to have hens when I lived in Magnolia as well as a HUGE garden. Being able to teach my kids where food comes from and collecting eggs is a memory they will forever cherish. Due to unforeseen circumstances I had to move to Katy in a neighborhood where chickens are not allowed. Despite popular belief hens are more quiet than a majority of dogs. Well kept they are wonderful and do not cause problems. I should have a right to grow my own food without having to rely on grocery stores. We have 6 kids and 5 of them are teens.

Barbara Henderson
Residents of Silver Lakes Ranch, Bowie Tx
Sunset, TX

My family chooses to live in an HOA/POA so that our property values are maintained. It prevents trash, cars on blocks and other junk. We do NOT want CHICKENS . To some it is a novelty but when newness wears off it brings snakes, coyotes, bobcats and we don't need that. Highland Village, Flower Mound, Trophy Club, Southlake, Colleyville certainly do not want HOAs to be hobbled in protecting us from smelly chicken coups and roosters crowing. Thank you so much for the opportunity to express my opinion. Vote NO on HB 92

Elizabeth Kish
Self/scientist
San Antonio, TX

The ability to have chickens at my home in my backyard has given my children the opportunity to learn and experience something that would be totally impossible without it. Having your own chickens is totally different than visiting a farm to see them; day by day they learn to feed, water, and care for these animals. By doing so we get so much in return. Not only do they provide us with eggs (which are my kids' favorite food) but they are learning irreplaceable life skills like responsibility, routine, and consistency. I would be incredibly saddened if we lost the ability to raise our own chickens. Thank you for your time.

Jahzeel Flores-Chavez

Self/ Teacher

Grand Prairie, TX

Food security is a right that should be maintained. Blocking people from being able to produce their own food should not be a thing.

Rebecca Kurtz

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill. I have backyard chickens and feel that everyone in Texas should have this opportunity if they desire. I also have a rain barrel.

Eve Macbeth

Self

San Antonio, TX

According to the city of San Antonio and Bexar County residents are allowed to own a small backyard flock of chickens, but many HOAs are taking away that right. Homeowners should have the right to decide if they want chickens. A garden is allowed to provide food, but we can't have chickens to help provide food for our families as well. Prices are getting higher and it is more important than ever to be able to provide for our families in the most affordable way possible. An HOA should not have the ability to limit the local laws and ordinances of the city or county they are in.

Jennclair Speights

The Speights family/urban farmer

Helotes, TX

We currently live in an HOA that restricts several things on the bill. We are really hoping this passes.

Since we moved into this house 6 years ago we didn't predict that our kids would be heavily involved in 4-H and FFA as they got older.

Our current HOA restrictions seriously limit the projects my kids can be involved in on top of limiting our ability as a family to be able to produce our own.

I see no reason why our family's desire to produce our own food should be restricted on a property we own.

Nor should my children's futures and passions be denied them. Better they be involved in an activity that helps better them and truly everyone's futures by learning necessary skills in livestock management than sit indoors playing video games.

I truly hope and respectfully ask that you pass this bill and support the large numbers of families across the state who have been prevented from being self-sufficient and provide support for those kids who are restricted from participating in activities that help our state as a whole by learning a skill that is steadily declining.

Maryn Jacobs

Self / photographer

Cypress, TX

Being able to have chickens in my yard would not only be wonderful for my family, but the community at large. Many of the homes in my neighborhood have plenty of space for chickens including my own and allowing them would dramatically reduce the food waste sent to landfill. With inflation at an all-time high and the frequent food shortages, it is important to our constitutional rights as Americans to be able to raise chickens and provide for our families.

Charley Bailey, Metal fabrication

Self

San Antonio, TX

Owning chickens teaches the young how and where their food comes from. They are also less annoying and just as much a pet as dogs and cats.

Candace Barrow

Self

Deer Park, TX

We just want the ability to live the way we want to live. Having a garden and some chickens for eggs to feed our family should be a right. It allows us to take care of ourselves in a meaningful way. Many of the regulations put in place now are beyond the scope necessary for public interest. They are just a way to bully us into their way of living.

Right now we can't have chickens due to a structure ordinance that states we can't have a chicken coop/run closer than 130 feet to any other structure. Our yard is 220 ft wide but only 40 ft deep. So our yard is plenty big for a small flock of egg hens, but we don't meet the criteria the ordinance outlines.

This may seem a small thing to you but to not have to buy 2 dozen eggs a week for my family would be huge right now. Not for the cost, but for the known quality and the learning process my kids would have.

Please vote for this bill. Thank you

Heather Glaser

Self

Pasadena, TX

With the rising cost of food and the unavailability of produce eggs and milk we as Americans should be able to LEGALLY provide our own. Self sustainable living is going to be the only way we survive the growing population, poisoned food industry, and live a TRULY FREE life. Vote to pass HB 92. Thanks for your time.

Kristen Molen

Self

Cypress, TX

I support this Bill. It gives me freedom to produce food for my family regardless of economy or supply chain issues.

Roberto Cardenas

Self

Helotes, TX

Good morning,

My name is Robert Cardenas, and I live in the City of Helotes. My wife and I live on a ¾ acre lot and cannot raise chickens due to our active homeowner's association. The pros of residential chickens significantly outweigh the cons. First, chickens are a great way to manage the pests in your backyard. This is extremely important if you have fruit trees and a garden. Chickens also eat small snakes and small mice. The most important aspect of raising chickens is the benefit of having a steady source of eggs and chicken meat. Chickens help by reducing biodegradable kitchen waste. Lastly, raising chickens is a great way to stay active and can be therapeutic. The daily routine of cleaning the coop and feeding is excellent exercise. Please consider moving forward with passing this bill. Thank you, and thank you for your service to the great State of Texas.

Robert Cardenas

Helotes, Texas

David Schaab

Self

Tom Bean, TX

Instead of a fixed number of chickens or other animals, the number should be related to the size of the property. One can easily raise a 1000 chickens in a 2 acre fenced area that happens to be within city limits. This also relates to agriculture exemption that for smaller animals, such as chickens, the exemption should be granted to 2 acres instead of the currently required 10 acres. This is still in keeping with the purpose of the agriculture exemption provided that the owner is using the chickens for agricultural purposes - selling of eggs/chickens to the public.

Stacy Dill
Self- homemaker
Round Rock, TX

I support the bill as it provides Texas homeowners the freedom to sustain their families in a variety of ways. It allows for common sense usage of homestead properties such as small scale chicken raising, and front yard food gardening. These activities are hindered for many by overreaching HOA restrictions. Please allow this legislation to pass so that we can use our property to its fullest advantage.

Charity Matthews
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am in full support of this initiative.

Christina Higgs
self, fundraiser.
San Antonio, TX

Having backyard chickens has changed the life of our family and I think that every person in the state should be allowed to have chickens on their property and benefit from the enrichment that having them brings. An HOA should not govern small livestock or garden activities that are not disruptive to others in a neighborhood. Please see this through and signed into law to help make people more self reliant and empowered.

Amy Blea
Self - Customer Success team manager
Round Rock, TX

I'm writing in support of this bill as I would like to have the right to grow food on my property and have a few chickens to ensure I have some control over the food I am able to feed my family. With food prices rising it is getting more and more difficult to purchase healthy foods. In being able to grow vegetables and have chickens, I would not only be able to feed my family but also share with my neighbors and others in need. Thank you for your consideration.

Ella Stroupe
Self
Missouri City, TX

It's very important to feed my family healthy and economically. I live in a suburb with an HOA that restricts chicken , rabbits. gardens in the front yard. It is urgent that citizens be allowed to feed our families ourselves in ways that will increase the health and financial aspect of our families.
Growing vegetables and fruit in the front yard can be done in an appealing way. I don't like wasting water on St Augustine grass instead of watering fruits and vegetables that can be fed to my family.
Please please help us.

Pablo Salinas

self

Houston, TX

Please support Bill HB 92 to allow residents to grow and raise their own food on their property. Growing a garden and raising a small backyard hen flock provides many benefits not only nutrition wise, but also for mental health benefits. Additionally, some homeowners are more comfortable raising hens than owning a dog or cat which are the top allowed pets in an HOA deed restricted community. Dogs can be a nuisance as they bark and also escape and may attack or bite people in their own neighborhoods. In the Houston area there is a huge stray dog population and there have been several cases of dogs being euthanized for being aggressive. Raising hens is safe, enjoyable, and it also allows us to convert food waste into eggs, lower pests in our yard, and they help us deal with life's everyday stress. Hens each have their own personality bringing diversity and life into our backyard ecosystem. HOA's should not have the power to withhold individuals from basic self-sufficiency nor having the pets they desire to keep whether chickens or rabbits. Please support HB 92.

Patricia Nowlin

Self-retired

San Antonio, TX

Chickens are vital to the ecosystem and are good emotional support livestock. The secret to having a good stock is to not overcrowd your flock and have only as many as your chicken house and run can handle. Free ranging your chickens is great. Chickens eat bugs in your yard and are fun to watch and at times can be very entertaining. Growing up my grandmother had chickens and I would help her take care of them feed, water and gather eggs. I would go out in the chicken yard barefoot hey feet are washable and it boosts your immune system. If you have chickens you have to put forth the effort to keep their area clean and make sure they stay healthy. It is a lot of work but the fresh eggs are worth the effort. They all have personalities that are unique to their breed. I love my hens and most chicken owners name their chickens and yes mine have names. The eggs need to be kept fresh and can be sold or given to friends and neighbors, it is a great feeling the gratification you get. We dont try to put the big egg producers out of business but to be self productive like farmers long ago did to feed their families, go back to the basics. Thank you for taking the time to read this thread.

Passing HB92 is a step in the right direction to make an economical impact to chicken owners and lovers.

They are vital to the livelihood of families everywhere as emotional support and environmental awareness.

Heather Prough-Brown

Self

Bedford, TX

I am thankful that this bill has been authored and is being heard. As Texans face inflation and an increase at the grocery store, I feel that this bill is imperative for the self sufficiency of all Texans.

I would like to see this bill add that municipalities cannot regulate distance of fowl or rabbits from other structures. Many properties are on small lots. Most municipalities will simply bypass this law by increasing the distance needed to do so. I think that it makes more sense to allow Texans to keep their birds and rabbits on their property. If the birds or rabbits escape, that then becomes a nuisance and only then should property owners be penalized. Texans invested in their own property. Please, consider allowing them to use it as they see fit.

I also believe that cockerals and roosters should be allowed. They are much quieter than dogs, horns, construction, and some stereo systems. They help Texans create more chicks and that could be dinner for some families. It is important that as times change, we are able to feed our families. Families may need to depend on a rooster to create more food to provide a better life for their children.

Quail are very small birds. I think that the limit for quail should be much higher than only six. Ideally, it would be nice to see families keep both quail and chickens. These small eggs are highly nutrient rich. I would love to see the state allows both. Quail are tasty and the young roosters can be eaten and offer food for families.

Thank you for listening to my suggestions. I think the time has come to put people's lives back in their own hands. This is a wonderful way to do it!

A Norton
Self
Clute, TX

As someone who can't seem to avoid living in HOAs in Texas (from San Antonio, to Houston, to now the gulf coast) I'd like to see HOAs not have overreach for backyard chickens, especially now that I live in a small town that allows them.

Dusti Lowery
Self
Clute, TX

I vote to have chickens without oversight of HOA! It's my backyard, I should be able to have them if the city allows it.

Marissa Mundt
Self
Boerne, TX

This bill needs to be passed. Individuals should have food security and able to feed themselves in the event of a need. Please, pass the bill

Bethany Lenning
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am a San Antonio resident who, like most others, has been affected by recent inflated prices for groceries. Eggs in particular have recently skyrocketed in price and are a staple in many households.

Having the ability to produce one's own food is an obvious solution to this problem for those who are willing to invest their time. However, most HOAs prohibit residents from keeping chickens or other poultry in their backyards.

While it is reasonable to expect chicken coops to be well maintained, or for other basic regulations to be put in place, it defies human decency to block struggling families from the ability to feed themselves in a sustainable and low-cost way.

If this legislation is passed it will not go unnoticed; taking this action will have a practical, tangible effect that will directly and perhaps immediately change our lives for the better. This may also influence moderate voters like myself to sway towards whoever passes reform that provides relief and greater freedom for the average family.

Thank you for looking out for the well-being of your constituents. We are paying attention.

Catherine Mansell, Ms
self / writer, translator, editor
San Antonio, TX

This bill represents an important advance towards protecting peoples' freedom and it has my strong support.

I would suggest however that allowance for noise pollution protections for neighbors be taken into account, because, for example, roosters can make an unholy racket, ditto uninsulated stand-alone generators.

Thank you.

Hollie McMonagle

Self/homemaker

Hutto, TX

Please pass this bill! As a mother of 9 children, I work hard to make sure my kids have what they need, as does their father. We live in an hoa not because we want to but because we could not find a house in our town that wasn't a part of an hoa. When Covid happened, like most, we struggled to get the necessary food for our large family. With food restrictions, some which are still in place today (eggs), I often have to make several purchases in a day or go to the store every day to meet my family's needs. We desire to raise chickens so we know that I can provide a basic protein source for my family. As Texans we take pride in taking care of our own! The most basic things such as food and water preparation should not be denied of me by any entity. Please pass this bill!

Lora Morgan

Chicken Bill

Clute, TX

In Favor of chickens

I would like to be able to have a few chicken for the purpose in raising my own eggs.

Not interested in a roaster only being able to have a few chicken. They are not noisy as people believe dogs are more noisier than chicken.

My family has raised chickens for years.

Thank you so much for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,

Lora Morgan

Robert Mihara

Self; Lawyer

San Antonio, TX

Rep. Landgraf and Members of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee, I am commenting in support of advancing HB 92 for a vote by the Texas House. I support this bill because it corrects for the arbitrary restrictions that have been imposed both on private citizens' liberty to ensure their food security and against their natural property rights in general.

Over the past few years, we have experienced the negative pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, Winter Storm Uri, and the bird flu that pushed egg prices to historic levels. There is no reasonable basis for absolute bans on food security-enhancing activities given the fact that there are affordable best practices that prevent nuisance and other harm to adjacent property interests as well as to public health. As a legal advocate for those of low and modest incomes, I know the benefit that HB 92 can have if passed by this legislature.

Texas prides itself on empowering individuals to be self-sufficient and in protecting individual property rights in reasonable balance with those of others. Arbitrary and overly expansive prohibitions by HOAs and municipalities on raising vegetables, egg laying fowl, etc., are not reasonably balanced. HB 92 would serve to correct such infringements on Texans' time-honored liberty to benefit from their homestead and to thereby look after their household's wellbeing.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment.

Steven Lai

Self / Application Developer

Pearland, TX

I support this bill

Kristen Locke
self / educator
Leander, TX

To whom it may concern. Thank you so much for taking the time to read my comments. I wish nothing more than for HB 92 to pass so I can teach my two young children the values of growing and raising your own food. We would love to keep 6 chickens (no roosters) to gather eggs and to show them the responsibility of chicken keeping. I would love to collect rain water to water vegetables that we grow and harvest. Unfortunately, most urban areas in Texas have VERY restrictive HOA's that make it impossible to do these things. Mine included. We do not have the funds to move out to several acres in the country and build a house on a lot. As a teacher for a major central Texas school district, I teach the importance of sustainability and human impact. 6 chickens would consume all food waste an average family goes through while providing eggs. 6 chickens can keep pests out of the garden, not having to resort to pesticides that leak into our ground water. My hope is that you pass this bill to allow families to bypass restrictive HOA's and to allow us to have these teaching moments and to give us the opportunity to GROW things ourselves within limits.

Thank you so much for your time.

Eryn Hernandez
Self- Registered Dietitian
San Antonio, TX

I live in the suburbs in San Antonio, and I have a very small backyard. However, I have been feeling the need to be more self-reliant, instead of relying solely on grocery stores for food as I have in the past. So, I have a small vegetable garden, and about 2 years ago I also added a small flock of chickens to my suburban "homestead". I have loved the experience (and the fresh eggs), and I have also come to realize how fortunate I am to be legally able to own chickens at all. Many of my friends also wish to raise chickens, but their HOAs do not allow it. I feel that it is my right to be able to provide food for myself and my family, and that no HOA should be able to forbid that. My neighbors have never complained about my chickens in the 2 years that I have had them, including when I accidentally ended up with a rooster along with my laying hens. Please fight for Americans' rights to provide for ourselves on our own property. Thank you for your consideration.

Heather McCain
Self
Kerrville, TX

In 2020, I found myself unable to find many necessary items in the grocery store to feed my family. There were shortages that affected many households across the state of Texas. As I do not live in city limits or within an HOA, I was able to add a small backyard chicken flock and a large vegetable garden to our homestead in order to provide my family with the food we need. Even now, three years later, the cost of eggs and many items in the grocery store have skyrocketed. While I am still able to provide for my family, Texans should have the ability to do the same. I strongly support HB 92.

Jennifer Conant
Self
Humble, TX

Please pass this bill. Being able to produce our own food on our own land is freedom. HOA's have a valuable purpose but restricting one's ability to produce their own food is an over reach. Help us provide for ourselves in a healthy and economical way.

Lisa Davis
Self IT Director
Lake Jackson, TX

I believe that everyone has a right to be able to provide food for their families

Benjamin Bloodworth
Self / Peace Officer
Kyle, TX

I support this bill as a Texas resident who is restricted by an HOA from owning any livestock. This bill would help me provide for my family and ease the burden of feeding two growing children.

Christi Elledge
self
Kingwood, TX

Please pass this Bill.

Nikki Brown
Self / self employed author and consultant
Humble, TX

Please pass this bill. Being able to produce our own food and energy on our own land is freedom. HOAs have a valuable purpose, but this has been an overreach. Now is the perfect time to correct that. Please help us provide for ourselves and our neighbors in a healthy and economical way. Thank you!

Jeremy Brown, Mr.
Self, Electrical maintenance Planner Offshore
Humble, TX

Let's take this opportunity to teach the younger generations where our food should really come from. Not only is it a positive notion for our kids and grandkids to help out with the process, but also could leave everlasting memories like I have with my grandma picking tomatoes and strawberries. Hopefully making it to the kitchen before they're all eaten. I know a lot of people are interested in the idea of growing food in their yards, but they're too afraid of getting in trouble with the HOA or neighbors. That's just silly. We already waste millions of gallons of water/money on keeping our NON- fruiting plants alive. Seems like a waste to me. I would rather water a nice apple tree or blueberry bush and have some kind of family, community and environmental return on my Hundreds of dollars watering the soil every year. Thank you, Jeremy

Anna Barwick
Self
Boerne, TX

Chickens are very beneficial animals and also as pets. Natural, green food producers, chemical free pesticide, soil tilling compost aerating..., the list is too long!!! Everyone should be able to own a chickens! Much better for the state of Texas!!!

Kristina Niewald
Self - BSN, RN
Fayetteville, TX

Please pass this bill. Being able to produce our own food and energy on our own land is freedom. HOAs have a valuable purpose, but this has been an overreach. Now is the perfect time to correct that. Please help us provide for ourselves and our neighbors in a healthy and economical way. Thank you!

Stacey King
Self
Kingwood, TX

Please pass this bill. Being able to produce our own food and energy on our own land is freedom. HOAs have a valuable purpose, but this has been an overreach. Now is the perfect time to correct that. Please help us provide for ourselves and our neighbors in a healthy and economical way. Thank you!

Neal Conant
Self
Humble, TX

Please pass this bill. Being able to produce our own food and energy on our own land is freedom. HOAs have a valuable purpose, but this has been an overreach. Now is the perfect time to correct that. Please help us provide for ourselves and our neighbors in a healthy and economical way. Thank you!

Ryan Pearson
Self/software engineer
Austin, TX

Being able to plant gardens in our yards or raise rabbits and chickens should not be restrict-able by municipalities or HOAs. We should be able to work or beautify our small chunk of this wonderous country as we see fit so long as it isn't harming other folks directly.

Tabitha Davidson
Self- home baker
Frisco, TX

Food security is a basic human right, and passing HB 92 will help ensure that more people in our state are granted that right by being able to provide their own food sources. I support HB 92 and ask my representatives to do the same.

Ashley Wiltshire
Self
Wylie, TX

I think if managed properly allowing households to provide themselves with eggs from their own chickens would mean more families would be able to eat food that hasn't been mass produced

Lindsey Buerger
self
Wylie, TX

I believe the Home Food and Security Bill is incredibly important to allow all Texans the freedom to provide what is needed for their own families with the property that they work hard to own. I have been gardening to provide fresh and healthy food to my family and others in my community for years. Since my city changed the ordinances to allow for backyard chickens a few years ago, I have learned so much about the benefits to raising chickens, even in a suburban neighborhood. Backyard hens provide a wealth of benefits from the perfect source of protein, convenience, joy, excellent fertilizer, trash reduction, and because of recent uncertainties with the economy, security. For the last couple of years, I have petitioned with my HOA and even been elected as a Board of Director. However, I have learned that Texas law requires 67% of a neighborhood to vote in favor of amending any rules. This definitely has it's benefit keeping an HOA from having unlimited powers, but it makes changing a rule such as allowing owners to raise a small number of hens in their backyard for eggs, an impossible feat for the fact that many people choose not to participate in voting at all within their HOA. During my time petitioning with my neighborhood, I learned that a significant number of homeowners support those who would like to make this change, but getting enough votes (either way) has been a challenge. This bill would not only allow for positive changes to be made in accordance with reasonable ordinances, but it would also allow Texans the liberty to provide food and a variety of energy for their families well being, on the property that they personally own, and not rely on grocery providers, power grids, or the government to provide what they should be able to do, just as in the past, for themselves. That's why I am asking that you pass HB 92. Thank you for your time.

Carolyn Cayson
Self
Killeen, TX

This should pass allowing homeowners to have chickens and gardens that live in areas with HOA's. It is therapeutic and assists in providing their families with home grown food supplies.

Jessica Petersen

Self - farmer / self/employed

Waxahachie, TX

I believe in keeping our food sources as local as possible, as accessible as possible, and as secure as possible. The best way to do that is to allow people to have their own chickens, rabbits, and/or gardens without restrictions from the city/county or HOA. In my lifetime, there's never been a more crucial time to have your own backyard garden/chickens/rabbits due to higher cost of food, and recent supply chain issues we've experienced as a country. I believe HB 92 would be very beneficial for Texas residents.

Adriana Ince

Waxahachie

Waxahachie, TX

We have always wanted to have chickens but can't afford buying land or a bigger property to do so. Would love to be able to have some in our backyard. Now more than ever I believe it's a right we have, to have access to our own food.

Agnes Park

Self

Austin, TX

Growing food and having animals in one's backyard is a right to live! We can't take away our ability to be self reliant. Communities and individuals need to have the right — no matter where they live — to have access to free resources.

Shannon Kammerer

Self

Helotes, TX

I have had chickens for several years and struggled within HOA communities to be able to keep them because of antiquated by-laws. My girls are quite than the neighborhood dogs and with properly maintained their coop has very little smell. In this time of food shortages I cannot imagine a better time to help people provide their out security by allowing everyone the right to keep hens. I am also an avid gardener and like to think of what I can do with my small portion of land as homesteading on a small scale. Being able to increase my usable space to grow my own food by extending to the very large front yard would just be another bonus to our food security. I may not struggle as much as many people but with a household of 5, continued inflation beyond what my payrate has increased every bit helps.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I sincerely hope this passes this year.

Amber Meadows

Self

Lufkin, TX

People deserve their right to the freedom to raise animals and food on their own. It's an overreach and travesty that anyone would prohibit it. Please reconsider our future.

Rachel Watkins

Self, Environmental Scientist

Round Rock, TX

I support this bill. With soaring prices of eggs, and the food insecurity we have seen the last few years, Texas should protect the freedoms of Texans to be self-reliant and be able to feed themselves. As a first time homeowner in a profession I can literally only perform here in Austin, if I wanted a home, I had no choice but to purchase a new build in an HOA. If given a choice to build without an HOA, I would have jumped on it. I believe this bill will help reduce the demand of eggs and other vegetables (in front yards) overall from grocery stores, helping those who do not have the time or finances to keep hens or a garden. Please support this bill!

Trish Alger
My household
Harker Heights, TX

Our household would appreciate the ability to be more self-sufficient by having a few chickens in our backyard. The cost and scarcity of eggs, along with an uncertain economic future, has escalated fears of being unable to adequately provide food for our family. The option to raise our own in the city limits would be appreciated. Thank you.

Sara Clements
Self
Waxahachie, TX

This is extremely important for us as American citizens. We should be granted the right to provide for our family, in a reasonable way. Especially with the way the world is going, this becomes increasingly more important. Please protect homeowners' rights to homestead and raise reasonable livestock. It is our livelihood and how we provide for our families.

Blythe Beishline
self
corsicana, TX

Having the freedom to grow a garden and raise animals in the backyard is good agriculture! It's good for the economy, bringing more plant life and animal life into the soil, air, etc.

Kristie Wehe, Chief Pig Officer
Self / Mockingbird Farm
Paige, TX

Everyone deserves the right to food sovereignty. We talk so much about freedom, but if we can't even feed ourselves, are we really free?

Nick Buerger
Self - CPA
Wylie, TX

I support this bill as a lifelong Texan. HOAs should not be able to limit a homeowners reasonable use of their own property, especially when it does not disrupt their neighbors.

Michelle Klein
Neighbors and friends
Dallas, TX

I support residence homestead property freedoms to house their rabbits and chicken and the right to have gardens where they please. A good portion of these home owners are supporting not only their families, but others via farmers markets, etc.

Evan Wilson
Self - blacksmith
Spicewood, TX

Please do whatever you can to protect the age-old practice of residential animal husbandry. We keep chickens and it's saved us hundreds of dollars a year. Our friends have goats and the milk is feeding their 7 kids for a fraction of the cost of buying regular milk at the store. The economic resilience afforded by backyard farming can make a giant difference for families. Not to mention the life lessons for kids, and the reduction of reliance on factory farms and shipping. If more people kept chickens we would never have egg shortages. Let's keep this extremely natural, necessary and beneficial practice alive and well in Texas. Thank you.

Jorge Cuellar
Self. Safety worker
Austin, TX

Hello. I live in Austin, TX. In the last 3 years we have had significant weather events that have left us without power, water or both. On one event we suffered a minor snow storm that devastated the central Texas infrastructure or lack thereof. Having animals to harvest or to eat would have helped feed my family. I support this bill because it allows families and empowers them to successfully meet basic needs.

Kelly Bhatt
Self
Lindale, TX

I have been a homeowner with backyard chickens in an urban setting for about 10 years before moving to the country and having chickens on our homestead. Chickens are a fun way to healthy food. We have never had a neighbor complain about the noise, a smell or anything offensive. Our home in Bedford TX was zero lot line and there were no issues. Growing our food in gardens and having chickens should be the absolute right of every Texan who chooses this lifestyle.

Shelley Oliver
Self
San Antonio, TX

I'm in support of passing this bill to allow all citizens of San Antonio to have the freedom to get their own sources of food and feed their families, on their property without interference from HOAs.

Mary Murphy
Egg producers
Boerne, TX

I would like to voice my support for HB92. I have a close friend who raises chickens and lucky for me she sells a dozen of eggs at a reasonable cost. I believe this bill will allow her to continue being a good steward of the ag community. Please consider this document as a show of support for HB92. Thank you. Mary Murphy

Henry Kelly
Self
Caldwell, TX

Thank for introducing this bill. I believe this would let Texas lead the way in environment care and sustainability at the household level. The benefits of personal production yet still living in harmony with nature cannot be denied.

Jeremiah Troutman, Cpl.
Self
Stephenville, TX

Restrictions like these are overreaching in times such as this. The times are calling for people to be able to raise their own food. For health matters, for food security matters, the list goes on. Let's go, this is Texas, let's get this bill passed! Marine Corps Veteran oorah!

Emily DeYoung
Self/Social Work
Wylie, TX

I support this bill. I would love to have a small number of chickens in my backyard that I own. My HOA should not be able to prohibit my ability to provide nutritious food for my family. Please pass this bill.

Liana Weiland, Ms.

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill - if I wasn't a gardener and food security enthusiast before the pandemic, I definitely would be now. These are simple assurances that people with a little property can provide for their families if they so choose.

Traci Rickert

Self

SEGUIN, TX

Being able to be self sustaining by supplying your own food, water and shelter is a basic priority that should be allowed under any governing authority. Undue regulations that limits a homestead to raise small animals or set up a garden for food encroaches this priority. In a commercial environment that has been proven unstable at times and difficulty to rely on food labels and supply chain 'concerns', should make this basic priority to supply ones own food in a manner deemed healthy to them a key reason to ensure their efforts are not hindered with undue regulations.

Amanda Lipstein

Self, EMS

Round Rock, TX

I fully support HB 92!

Miriam Orta

Self

Laredo, TX

I believe we should be able to have our own chickens and rabbits. If not for pets not, for sustainability. We can especially use our chickens for our ever rising grocery prices. Using their eggs and meat to help provide for our family and our community. Isn't this a free country? If so, we should be free to feed our families sustainably and know that our food comes from happy and healthy animals. These animals can help our children learn how to be compassionate and teach responsibility toward our animal friends and family.

Rachel Crowe

Self

Granbury, TX

Being able to eat is a basic human right. Feeding our family well and sustainably, while knowing what enters our bodies as sourced from our own hands is a Liberty all Texans should possess. Unhitching from supply chain dependance makes for a freer society that is less reliant on a fragile system that teeters dangerously on collapse when calamity strikes. Independence from these systems lessen the burden on society, supply chain, infrastructure, law enforcement, charities, social services, and government. Sustainable local food sources should not be controlled by any power or government. Texans, individually, need to have the right, by law, to engage in these practices responsibly without interference from agencies, corporations, associations, or government. This is simple and beautiful Liberty at its basic core: food, power in the form of electricity, shelter, peace, and working quietly with your hands. This is what's good and healthy for Texas. Independence is what makes us strong. If we can own a gun to protect ourselves and others, surely we can own a chicken or rabbit to feed ourselves and others. If we can fence our yard in an HOA to protect our property and home, surely we can own laying hens to sustain our very lives. If we can plant a tree, surely we can plant a vegetable or a fruit. Perhaps we should learn again to leave unhealthy dependency behind, and learn again independence that girds and supports greatness. Allow Texans to untether from the constraint of mass delivered food and energy. When crisis or despotism comes let us all be properly, positively, positioned and prepared. Please rightfully pass laws that seamlessly support food freedoms.

Liberty is: A right to engage in certain positive actions without control or interference by a government or other power.

Pam Privers
Self
Houston, TX

Growing your own produce and raising your own alternative source of food, such as chickens/rabbits/bees, are excellent ways to become more sustainable at home and reduce your environmental impact. Having a small homestead ensures food security and a self-sustaining lifestyle, particularly in the event of job loss. As neighbors share their abundant harvests, urban homesteading fosters positive community involvement. There is also a growing demand for locally grown organic foods as we have become more knowledgeable about where our food is sourced, and the impact transporting food from other states or countries has on climate change and having a small urban homestead allows us access to what we put on our tables and no municipality, county, or HOA has a right to control this.

Penelope Morehead, Mrs
Self, real estate
Fort worth, TX

My husband has stage 4 cancer at age 58 and have to raise our own food due to costs and access to clean nutrition. Please vote to protect homeowners right to homestead animals on their own property. We don't need anymore restrictions on us or our land. This is a horrible hurtful bill. Thank you, Penelope Morehead.

Rebecca Aguilar
Self homemaker
Hico, TX

Everyone deserves to have food security without having to depend on a broken supply chain.

Rosemine Mathews
Self
Conroe, TX

Please pass this bill. Eggs are part of my diet and would help with my grocery expenses.
My HOA doesn't permit chickens yet dogs are permitted.

Simone Benz
Sustainable Food Center
Austin, TX

Growing food at home has sustained the health and connectivity of our communities for generations. Growing food at home builds connections within families when families garden together, sustains food security - especially during challenging times, and creates more vibrant communities. Everyone should be able to grow their own food at their home if they wish to do so, without threat from their neighbors. Sustainable Food Center proudly supports HB 92.

Douglas Havemann
Self/Farmer
Nixon, TX

With inflation and the cost of food in the grocery store, nobody should have the authority for a family to produce food for their family.

Jessica Bundy, Mrs.

Self

Katy, TX

We have 6 kiddos. As you are aware of the price of everything with inflation, especially with teenage boys, it is not easy to keep the household fed adequately but we manage to do so well. I used to live in Magnolia where I was able to have hens and a huge garden. I had 58 hens to be exact. There was no fowl smell they are not loud and they do a lot of good for the garden. It was wonderful to be able to teach my three about where certain foods come from and how to take care of the hens and the garden. Due to unforeseen circumstances we had to move. I am now with my husband with a total of 6 children, yes we thought that was a great idea haha. His 3 have never had any sorts of real education on where food comes from. I want us to be able to have hens and get the eggs that we need and use the manure in our thriving garden. I have planted in my backyard grains, green beans, tomatoes, zucchini, peppers, okra and much more. I have also planted a bee friendly garden to hopefully attract more bees as we really need them to survive. I have spoken to all of my neighbors and they wouldn't mind us having hens. This could be wonderful especially in the state of inflation that we are in. I don't ever want to have to pay \$5 a dozen for eggs again. Please take everything I have said into consideration today. Thank you for your time.

Michael Dorff

Self

McKinney, TX

Please pass this bill so that Texans can use their land to support their families.

As an 8th generation Texan, I believe I'm the first generation not to be allowed to raise chickens in my backyard. Certainly, I chose the neighborhood with HOA, but that was because we wanted to put our 4 children in the best school possible.

We knew we would have to live under some restrictions imposed by covenants that were mostly written 30 years ago, which included restrictions on chickens. But culture and society are changing. We are realizing that we've strayed too far from the land, we are too reliant on fragile supply chains, and our children are too disconnected from where food really comes from.

This bill is an opportunity to ensure that more people can live with less reliance on the supply chain, more people can eat healthy food that they can safely control, more people can free themselves from large scale industrial agriculture, and more children can grow up understanding how to care for, respect and harvest animals for food.

Please pass this bill.

Shawn Stager

Self

Seguin, TX

As a home owner, having the ability to raise my own product has helped me during these recent years of increased prices and increased hormone injected proteins.

Lisa Del Puerto

Self

Boerne, TX

I live in Boerne's Lake Country subdivision. I speak for myself not as a member of the HOA board even though I serve as its Secretary. Our rules allow for chickens, not roosters. It is required to get written permission from surrounding neighbors, have a coop, proper enclosures and fencing to keep out wildlife and loose dogs. Neighbors share or sell a small number of eggs to others in the neighborhood or to family members. I feel it is a plus. We also have an architect committee that oversees all aspects of building on the member properties, this includes rain collection systems and solar. I firmly believe that having these systems allows for self sufficiency. Thank You.

Avery Bezner
Self/Student
SMITHVILLE, TX

My name is Avery Bezner, I am 16 years old, a student at Smithville High School in Bastrop County, about 40 miles southeast of Austin.

I live with my parents, on 10 acres, in rural Bastrop County. Because we live on a lot restricted by a POA (where all our neighbors have 5-10 acres), we cannot have chickens. I hope you would agree with me that it would certainly be reasonable for me to have chickens on 10 acres, especially since I live out in the country.

During the pandemic when I took classes online from home, I would finish all my schoolwork by noon each day. I spent my afternoons building a chicken coop with scrap materials my dad had leftover from prior projects. I knew I would be selling the chicken coop as I could not have chickens, however, it is ironic the buyer of the chicken coop lives in the city of Austin, about 3 miles away from the capital.

I respectfully ask that you pass the bill out of committee with a unanimous vote.

Thank you,
Avery Bezner

Kris Vandenberg
Self
Maxwell, TX

I vote against the municipality, county, or property owner's association to prohibit or regulate certain activities on residence homestead property because I want the right to decide how many animals I raise to provide enough food for myself and my family.