

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Agriculture & Livestock
For HB 1389

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 12:42 PM

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Hearing Date: March 8, 2023 8:00 AM

Judith McGeary
Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance
Cameron, TX

The Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance supports HB 1389 by Representative Guillen. While we believe that local governments should maintain authority to regulate legitimate health and safety concerns, the application of requirements relating to the height or maintenance of vegetation is an aesthetic issue. It is not appropriate to prevent farms from growing human or animal feed based on such concerns. We ask that the Committee members vote to move HB 1389 forward. Thank you.

Jill Spang
Self
Cypress, TX

The last 3 years have shown that the supply chain for food is not stable. The ability to produce food at home is a safety and security concern for Texans. HOAs should not be able to limit my ability to garden in my side yard (or front yard). Further, the ability to raise hens and have a homegrown source of protein is also essential to food security.

Gardening is a healthy endeavor, encouraging families to work together and get outside. Further, the environmental impact of a food chain being backyard to table reduced the carbon footprint of transportation. Backyard gardeners are more likely to compost waste, providing a natural replenishment to soil without fertilizer, thus protecting surface water from polluted fertilizer runoff.

Hens can provide up to 250/hen/year. A flock of up to 6 hens can provide eggs for a family. The same transportation carbon emission reduction from gardening applies to egg production. Additionally, chickens can provide pest control reducing pesticide use and runoff. Further, chickens can eat food scraps reducing household waste.

Please consider the above and pass the bill allowing chickens and gardens. Thank you.