

**Hearing Testimony  
Texas Chapter of the National Waste & Recycling Association  
House Committee on Environmental Regulation  
Supporting House Bill 631  
March 15, 2021**

The National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) is a trade association representing private sector waste and recycling companies. Our member companies operate in Texas and the other 49 states. Our industry is a mix of local, regional and national companies who compete vigorously to provide quality services in the most cost efficient and environmentally protective manner.

**House Bill 631 by Representative Darby**

House Bill 631 would clarify that an applicant for a landfill permit is required to obtain permit approval the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and no other local governmental entity, with a few, limited statutory exceptions. This bill addresses the growing problem of local governments attempting to regulate various aspects of the landfill permitting process. Such local government overreach disincentivizes, and could significantly delay or even prevent, future development of solid waste facilities, which are essential for purposes of public health and safety in a state with a rapidly growing population.

TCEQ's current solid waste permitting process is thorough and includes considerable protections for the public and the environment. Over the last few legislative sessions, the Legislature has reviewed most, if not all, aspects of TCEQ's landfill permitting processes. In addition, the regulatory authority vested in TCEQ is clear and provides the reliability and consistency required to incentivize the very large capital investments needed in development and operation of new solid waste facilities.

HB 631 as filed does not affect a municipality's or county's ability to exercise existing authority granted in statute. For these reasons, the NWRA Texas Chapter membership supports HB 631 as filed and believes that clarifying TCEQ's role as the lead regulator for all municipal solid waste landfill permitting in Texas is both appropriate and practical. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony and would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

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