



SENATOR JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ DISTRICT 26

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Senator José Menéndez Issues Statement On Tree Ordinance

Austin, Texas – Today the Senate passed Senate Bill 14 and is now headed to the House of Representatives. SB14 is an attack on local control and removes the ability of cities and local governments to enact ordinances that govern tree removal. We filed an amendment to exempt Bexar County however, since the amendment was not accepted, I voted against the bill.

Our proposed amendment would have allowed San Antonio to keep its respective tree ordinance which was created in cooperation with developers, environmentalists, engineers, businesses, military personnel and local residents. This ordinance has been effective in protecting the tree canopy with its multiple quality-of-life benefits. It has also allowed our military bases to maintain a buffer providing the needed environment to conduct successful military training, while protecting endangered species and safeguarding individual citizens' rights.

Our City's tree canopy acts as a natural infrastructure and provides needed functions, such as the reduction of an urban heat island effect, management of storm water, flooding, and improved air and water quality.

The City of San Antonio's existing ordinance has helped protect air quality and is one of the reasons San Antonio is the largest city in the country that is still in attainment of the EPA's ozone standards.

I encourage everyone to reach out to their House Representative to voice their opinions on Senate Bill 14.

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