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## **PRESS RELEASE – Texas General Land Office & Great Springs Project Announce HB 4230: The Texas Bicentennial Trail Bill**

**Austin, Texas** – The Texas General Land Office and Great Springs Project are pleased to announce the signing of HB 4230, establishing the Texas Bicentennial Trail to promote Texas' rich historical and cultural heritage, provide for increased outdoor recreation, and enhance economic development in the state.

Under HB 4230, the General Land Office, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, local governments, and nonprofit organizations like Great Springs Project will connect existing and new trails, Texas historical sites, and iconic landscape features, including Barton, San Marcos, Comal, and San Antonio Springs, into a trail network from the Alamo to the State Capitol. Great Springs Project is a nonprofit organization that connects Texans both with nature and economic development by providing outdoor recreational opportunities and preserving important natural resources in the Texas Hill Country and Central Texas.

Authored by State Representative Will Metcalf and State Senator Donna Campbell, HB 4230, along with its companion bill SB 1520, was supported by a wide range of chambers of commerce, agencies and organization focused on economic development and transportation in this state. The bill provides that the trail routes may not be acquired through eminent domain and ensures that the Texas Bicentennial Trail is completed by January 1, 2036, to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Texas' independence.

"The General Land Office is thrilled to work with state agencies, local governments, and organizations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Texas' independence with the Texas Bicentennial Trail," said Commissioner Buckingham. "This sprawling network of nature trails, renowned geographical locations, and historical landmarks will inspire Texans and millions of annual visitors to explore our state's unique beauty and history, boosting our robust economy."

Representative Will Metcalf said "The Texas Bicentennial Trail will showcase the beauty, character, and independence of the State of Texas and provide significant economic impact to the state."

Senator Donna Campbell said "The Texas Bicentennial Trail from the Alamo to the State Capitol represents the greatness of our state and our rich historical and cultural heritage. And recreational trails are a win-win for Texas by bringing tourist dollars to a region and providing for a more healthy Texas and health care savings for Texans."

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