



---

To: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission

From: Leticia Gutierrez, Government Relations and Community Outreach Director at Air Alliance Houston

Date: June 22, 2022

**Subject: Public comments at the Sunset Review public hearing on the TCEQ**

Hola mi nombre es Leticia Gutierrez.

Estoy aqui parte de la organizacion Air Alliance Houston y tambien soy parte de la comunidad que esta haciendo afectada por industria donde TCEQ no esta haciendo su trabajo.

No entienden lo que dije? Didn't understand what I said?

That's a small glimpse of what my community goes through at these hearings. No one was translating, helping our Spanish speakers navigate this confusing process. Even for those of us who understand English, it's confusing to know your way around and how to sign up to speak.

I have here a stack of cards of community who didn't want to speak but didn't know they could be accounted for, but because they didn't receive the information until after 11.30 they were told sorry, it's 11.42 and cut-off is 11.30 to turn in your card. My time now is being taken up by explaining this ridiculous process set up to continue to deter us from testifying and speaking up about all the atrocities industry is lawfully is allowed to do to us.

From petrochemical industry being allowed to spew hydrogen cyanide, benzene, butadiene, and other chemicals I can't properly pronounce, to particulate matter increasingly reaching record levels, concrete batch plants popping up near schools, parks where young children whose lungs are still developing and more than likely already experiencing upper respiratory issues due to existing air toxins, all while TCEQ standing idle letting these things happen, handing out small fines, handing out permits like candy, not considering other cumulative health impacts in environmental justice communities.

It's as if TCEQ absolutely has 0 regard to our health and 100% investment in polluters.

Not only is industry unjustly allowed to poison us black and brown communities, they seem to embold industry by letting them police themselves given the laws set in place against us.

[Everyone has a right to breathe clean air.](#)

a: 2520 Caroline Street, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77004 | p: 713.528.3779 | w: [airalliancehouston.org](http://airalliancehouston.org)

Why do we not see these same cancer-causing chemicals in River Oaks or Tanglewood, west U? Why? Because they are predominately white wealthy affluent residents and heads would fly if a child there were to be put in harm's way due to these same facilities that are in our backyard.

Hearing representatives and others constantly make excuses as to why our state regulatory agencies are not doing their one job, which is to protect our health, is nauseating. Stating it's good for economic development to make an argument over our health being on the chopping block, is sick and backward thinking.

Because at the end of the day, who economically benefits?

We ALL pay when community gets sick, we all pay when community is suffering, we all pay when property values drop, we all pay when kids are getting sick and falling behind in school... We all pay as industry makes billions off of our health.

Everyone has a right to breathe clean air.

a: 2520 Caroline Street, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77004 | p: 713.528.3779 | w: [airalliancehouston.org](http://airalliancehouston.org)