



To: Harris County Commissioner's Court

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

Date: February 1, 2022

Subject: Investments in Harris County Pollution Control

My name is Leticia, I live in Precinct 2/East End/near industry, near the Ship Channel, and work for Air Alliance Houston which is also a part of the Healthy Ports Communities Coalition (HPCC).

I'm urging members of the court to protect and expand investments in pollution control as they make budget decisions for the upcoming year. Investments in pollution control are investments in the public health of our families, our residents and also the economic attractiveness of our region.

For far too long we've invested far too little in pollution control - as a result our health has suffered. When our health suffers everything else suffers and this suffering isn't distributed equally. Last year, a study revealed the differences in life expectancy across our region, this included - pollution exposures, and lack of investment in monitoring, enforcement, and restrictions from the state level contribute greatly to that disparity.

There is a very important role Harris County Pollution Control (HCPC) has played during industrial disasters, when pollution can be at its greatest and our health is being jeopardized. HCPC provides essential emergency fence line monitoring and safety assessments to keep us/the community informed about potential risks to our health. Therefore, investing in HCPC is also an investment in emergency preparedness and disaster response/recovery.

I want to commend HCPC for their investment in fence line air monitoring. It is dire for our local elected leaders to protect us from further exposure to toxins that industry is exposing us to and negatively affecting our health.

Thank you for your time.

Everyone has a right to breathe clean air.

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