



To: The Sunset Advisory Commission on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
From: Crystal Ngo, Environmental Justice Outreach Coordinator
Date: March 23, 2023

Good afternoon, my name is Crystal Ngo. I was raised in Alief, Houston, Texas. I am currently the Environmental Justice Outreach Coordinator at Air Alliance Houston, in support of the bill.

I would like to begin with how there could be significant reform in the [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality] TCEQ.

Economic interests need to be removed from the TCEQ's mission statement to remind the agency that they are supposed to be advocates for the people of Texas.

Right now, environmental justice is at the forefront of our minds because there is a pattern of facilities being built near low income, black, indigenous people of color – marginalized communities. And communities are at constant risk of breathing in air pollutants, such as Volatile Organic Compounds, methane, benzene and other carcinogens. Imagine seeing a plume of black smoke filling the sky. And that literally just happened yesterday in Pasadena, Texas. This shouldn't be a regular sighting for these communities of color and they shouldn't be in fear of enjoying the outdoors.

I want to amplify what has already been said:

- TCEQ should establish an Office of Environmental Justice to protect marginalized communities impacted by facilities;
- [Better] access to resources, which should include translation [of documents into] multiple languages that represent the community;
- Allow commissioners to deny a permit based on considerations of equity and justice;
- We do not support Virtual only public meetings.

These modifications are a step forward but there is still time to protect people's health and natural resources. There should be a prioritization of people over profit.

Thank you.