

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
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From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Sent: Saturday, June 25, 2022 2:53 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset.AdvisoryCommission@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Sat, 06/25/2022 - 01:24

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about
[Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#)

Public Comments

1

First Name

Rick

Last Name

Baraff

Email

City

Dallas

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

We are in an unfortunately RARE moment for environmental and social justice. TCEQ can either be a leading advocate for and executor of vital, lasting, real-world change that will affect ALL of us, or TCEQ can continue 'business as usual' and allow business and wealthy residents to take advantage of and, yes, destroy our valuable natural resources in the name of money.

I highly suggest that the members of TCEQ truly listen to reason, sanity, the need for healthy reforms and forward-thinking laws that protect OUR waters, OUR air, OUR lands. This should not be a hard decision, especially with the vast monetary resources the State of Texas has at its disposal.

The need to engage with local communities, the need to focus on equality, the need to put everyone's health and safety above the profits of a few, should be standard operation procedure for a body claiming to champion environmental protections.

At NO point in any discussion should TCEQ even think about let alone consider putting lives at risk -- really, poisoning people on purpose -- for any amount of money or because our 'economy' needs to grow, or because business needs to happen.

TCEQ can be leaders... or you can be remembered in the future as the body that COULD have done something but continued to put business interests and a few wealthy folks in front of rules and legislation that could make Texas a true leader.

Your Proposed Solution

It is so simple to do real good for Texas. Enforce fines, and even INCREASE fines for companies out of compliance or who break current laws. Again, TCEQ has the power, if it so desires. All that the members of TCEQ need is just a minimum amount of willpower, of humanity, of human dignity -- and of sanity.

I understand that TCEQ is a 'government' agency and that can lead to a lot of bureaucracy and potential politics. But real human lives are at stake, including every single person that works at TCEQ. The solutions ARE here. They are not something to strive for. There is no need to invent things or to go outside the boundaries of what TCEQ is capable of. Commit to upholding environmental laws. Commit to holding polluters and business accountable. There is no reason anywhere or for anything which should put a business before your health or the health of Texans. None.

The vast majority of citizens are in favor of stronger regulations, real-world action to protect and preserve our air, water, and soils.

The biggest solution is to have the courage and conviction to simply do what TCEQ claims it can do.

If you open yourself to public interaction, if you invite regular citizens into the process and the work that you do, you will have massive momentum and a huge amount of goodwill in your court.

The other solution is: Do NOT give in to "business interests". Without clean natural resources, without our health, without protection, we all literally have nothing. No amount of money can fix that. You have the ability, you have the processes, you have the name -- now simply go forward and be a champion for ALL Texans and the total environment that allows us to thrive.

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes