

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Monday, June 27, 2022 8:27:37 AM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2022 7:42 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset.AdvisoryCommission@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Mon, 06/27/2022 - 06:41

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

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

Public Comments

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First Name

Maggie

Last Name

Di Sanza

Email

City

Austin

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

My name is Maggie DiSazna and I am a proud resident of Austin, Texas, and a student at the University of Texas at Austin and Texas Rising.

The TCEQ should put public and environmental health first. The economic interests of polluters should always come second to people and communities. Texans understand what the TCEQ is and what its role should be. Many of us have experienced pollution firsthand and know the TCEQ must do a better job of protecting Texas' public health.

Texans are suffering from too much pollution. According to a 2021 report from Harvard University, 17,600 Texans die every year just from air pollution from burning fossil fuels. 28% of our rivers and creeks and 38% of our lakes aren't safe for basic uses like swimming or fishing because they have high levels of pollution. Right now TCEQ prioritizes issuing permits for industrial facilities. We want the agency to prioritize public health and the environment instead.

Your Proposed Solution

Low-income communities of color are often the most impacted by pollution. The TCEQ should say "enough is enough" to dumping pollution in Black and brown communities.

We demand that more violations of pollution laws should result in fines and corrective action. Fines should be big enough to cause corporations to change their behavior. Raising fines from the current \$25,000 per day cap to at least \$50,000, recovering the economic benefit of non-compliance, and allowing separate fines for separate pollutants would be a huge incentive for companies to comply with the law.

TCEQ commissioners should be given the authority to deny permits based on fairness. Even a permit that is otherwise complete should be eligible for denial based on considerations of equity and justice.

The TCEQ should improve its monitoring and inspections of industrial facilities so that the burden of alerting the public of pollution incidents doesn't fall on members of the community.

The TCEQ should recognize the diversity of our state and expand its efforts to reach marginalized and impacted communities in a variety of languages.

Finally, the TCEQ should follow science – not politics – and not spend resources opposing EPA science simply for political gain.

Texans deserve safe, healthy, and thriving communities, it is high time we deliver.

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes