

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 12:09:29 PM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 9:25 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset.AdvisoryCommission@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Wed, 06/22/2022 - 08:11

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

Ric

Last Name

Galvan

Email

City

San Antonio

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

As it stands there are multitudes of environmental crises happening across our state of Texas. Right now we are experiencing one of the hottest summers on record and summer just technically started yesterday, and yet we already have had weeks of 100 degree or higher weather here in Central Texas. Across the state we are experiencing significant drought conditions, seriously endangering our populations as the summer is only going to get hotter and more water will be needed for everyday needs and for agriculture – especially as our state population continues to grow at a rapid pace. And

yet, this commission continuously allows large industries to dump their pollutants into our rivers, streams and lakes – our few sources of freshwater.

Our power grid continues to experience stressful days as more and more folks run their A/Cs for longer periods of time, only staying afloat because of our solar and wind energy sources. And yet, our natural gas, coal and oil producers continue to get away with pumping toxic air into our communities of color in San Antonio, our border communities, the Gulf Coast, Houston, and places all across Texas, while providing us with less and less benefits compared to cleaner and cheaper energy sources. All we are getting in return for our fossil fuel usage is high asthma, respiratory disease and cancer rates, high electric bills, and now high gas prices. For a commission whose mission statement is “to protect our state’s public health and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development,” you’re letting Texans suffer from toxic air and high prices for everyday needs.

Lastly, hurricanes keep getting stronger and more disastrous for our communities along the Gulf; wildfires are growing stronger and more prevalent across our state; and our winters are getting colder leading to more frequent winter storms. We know for a fact that these weather and environmental disasters, along with the ones I described earlier, are all directly linked to climate change which we contribute to through our industrial and fossil fuel emissions, water pollutants, and our environmentally damaging infrastructure.

Your Proposed Solution

This commission needs to step up and serve Texans, not industrial and fossil fuel companies, by putting polluters on the hook when they hurt our environment and our communities. The TCEQ should strengthen its enforcement on corporations that violate environmental standards and harm public health by raising fines from the current \$25,000 per day cap to at least \$50,000 and allowing separate fines for separate pollutants for companies to comply with the law. Further, the TCEQ should rebuild trust with the communities it is meant to serve by improving its monitoring and inspections of industrial facilities, and alerting members of the public of pollution incidents in the language(s) of the community so they do not have to find out on their own. Finally, the TCEQ should push companies and our state and local governments to do better to protect Texans’ health and our environment by encouraging them to pass policies that encourage the usage of renewable energy and work to reduce water and air pollution across Texas.

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes