

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 12:08:40 PM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 10:00 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 - 08:58

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

Hannah

Last Name

Hughes

Organization you are affiliated with

Texas Rising

Email

City

Austin

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

Hello Commissioners,

My name is Hannah Hughes, a Regional Field Coordinator with Texas Rising and a proud lifelong

Texan from San Antonio.

The goal of Texas Rising is to engage young people in all aspects of our government. The Texas Commission of Environmental Quality is one such entity that controls so much of our state yet we, the young people of Texas, always seem to be out of the loop on what the commission is doing. At the end of the day, permits passed through the commission will impact us more than anyone currently sitting on the board.

As someone who is a lifelong San Antonian, just as most folks from San Antonio, I'm also an asthmatic. I've had asthma since early childhood and as I grew older realized that many of my peers also developed childhood asthma that still affects them to this day. Initially, I thought this was a coincidence until college when I took a public health & ethics class. We discussed how our environment shapes our public health, more than anything else. Of course, this made me question what could've shaped our environment in San Antonio to have higher rates of childhood asthma than any other county? We have a heavy ozone polluter in the Spruce Coal Plant on the outskirts of town, of course, that pollution along with city smog would reasonably cause air quality to plummet in the city. Making the plant a likely contributor to these rates.

Of course, this is not only a San Antonio problem. This is a Texan problem. According to a 2021 Harvard study, 17,600 Texans die every year just from air pollution from burning fossil fuels.

The best course of action is to end the burning of fossil fuels and start a concerted effort to turn Texas into a green/renewable energy state. I know that seems like a pipe dream now, but that's the only way to make any Texan death 0 in regards to fossil fuel pollution.

Positive actions to take now are for the TCEQ to increase fines and corrective actions against polluters in the state. The TCEQ has the power and authority to hold big polluters accountable in all aspects of water and air pollution. TCEQ oversight is the only factor that keeps us, the public, protected from these plants being able to pump emissions into our air.

Your Proposed Solution

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My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes