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Good afternoon. My name is Laura Hunt. I am a pediatrician and mother of 3 children in Midlothian, TX—the cement capitol of the state. I also direct Midlothian Breathe, which is a member group in the TRAM coalition. I want to say thank you to the Sunset Staff for incorporating many of our requests into their report. Thanks also to the commissioners for listening as I explain some of the personal motivation behind these recommendations.

Soon after moving to Midlothian, my then 4-year-old daughter who had previously been completely healthy, developed recurrent pneumonias, stopped growing and her lung function decreased to half normal. In spite of access to all of the best physicians and extensive testing and treatment trials, we were left with more questions than answers. The only potential cause of her deterioration seemed to be the large cement kilns looming over us.

Let me take a minute to introduce you to my world. I wake up tired from listening to my daughter cough all night, but grateful for the reminder that at least she's still breathing. I see gray clouds emanating from the nearby cement kilns and consider how most locals refer to them as the 'cloud factories,' so as to not worry anyone. How could they know otherwise? It has taken me countless hours searching through the mess that is TCEQ's website to find what I'm looking for, including the knowledge that these clouds contain thousands of tons of dangerous pollutants. Even as a highly educated person, once I find what I'm looking for, it's generally so highly technical, lengthy and non-user friendly that I have needed assistance from other environmental groups or even had to hire paid consultants to 'interpret it.' Today, I just want to know if it's safe for my daughter to go outside. After clicking through at least 3 or 4 screens to find air monitors and then realizing most of the Midlothian monitors contain no data, I finally land on the one active monitor and guess my way through the numerous selections required to view the data. Suddenly, hundreds of columns of data on numerous pollutants consume my screen and give me an instant headache. There is no color-coding, target values or other context provided, so the



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numbers are completely meaningless to me. I can only conclude that TCEQ either doesn't have the financial or technical resources to make the data user-friendly and meaningful or *intentionally desires* to keep the public confused and mis-informed.

In conclusion, I strongly support all recommendations on Issue 1 and feel these items focused on public input, education and transparency are most important. With regard to recommendation 1.5, if TCEQ could add a mobile app to supplement the website with the ability to submit pictures and videos in real-time to illustrate complaints as well as receive notifications on permit applications, violations, and air quality, this would be particularly user-friendly and greatly promote public trust. Moreover, a well-designed online form or app could efficiently screen and triage complaints to the appropriate investigators, thereby addressing the issues in 2.6, without the risk of further silencing the public. Those of us speaking today have sacrificed many, many hours and dollars to overcome the challenges of a website and permitting system that seem to be confusing and overwhelming to the public BY-DESIGN. While the public is in dire need of being heard, simply scheduling extra hearings and public meetings will only increase frustration and inefficiency if the TCEQ is not able to RESPOND and ACT in response to public concerns. TCEQ must be empowered through sound legislation to be able to amend or deny ANY permit (including standard permits for concrete batch plants) in response to public concerns, scientifically-rigorous risk assessments of cumulative exposures, and/or environmental justice considerations. Thank you for the opportunity to share my experiences and requests.