

From: [Mickey Marvins](#)
To: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
Subject: Re: TCEQ being reviewed by Sunset Committee:
Date: Monday, June 13, 2022 1:08:43 PM

The Sunset Advisory Committee is reviewing the TCEQ. That agency has 2,800 employees. That right there should wave wasteful tax money red flags. This agency needs to be sunsetted out or dramatically reduced. TCEQ gives factories in poor neighborhoods the ok to pollute the water and air. They have also gone after a fabulous restaurant in the Hill Country. Below is what the TCEQ has done to Hill Top Cafe which is 11 miles northwest of Fredericksburg out in the middle of nowhere. What the TCEQ has done is a disgrace and abuse of regulatory power. Please do all you can to stop this abuse. Thanks.

To all of our family of friends and patrons of Hill Top Café,

We have had an amazing run here up on the hill for the last 41 years. Through all the great food, music, friendships, and also the tough times and tragedies Hill Top has always been an oasis, both from a culinary and musical standpoint. While there have been many ups and downs in slowly but surely building Hill Top into a world-renowned establishment, we now face a threat that is beyond our control—something we can't fix with hard work and creativity: the bureaucracy!

Yes, the TCEQ has raised it's ugly head once again. As many of you know, our troubles with this bureaucratic agency started in 2015 when they attempted to take over our water system and force us to chlorinate our beautiful Edwards Aquifer spring water and then further degrade and squander this pristine resource by subjecting it to wasteful reverse osmosis. Why, you might ask? For no reason, whatsoever—we have NEVER had a problem in 41 years with our water or any other aspect of public health and safety.

In 2017, with your support and the efforts of state representative Kyle Biederman and his assistant Larry Bailey, we brokered a deal with the EPA regional office in Dallas and the Attorney General's office. This was a common sense solution which included monthly testing and public notices. As a further gesture of good will and co-operation we installed a commercial UV filtration system as a safeguard. Again, all of this was done to mollify the TCEQ, not because there was ever any problem or issue with the water.

After this agreement and arrangement we co-existed with TCEQ peacefully and without event until, out of nowhere in the fall of last year(2021) we were served with a \$250,000(not to exceed \$1,000,000) lawsuit inspite of the arrangement we had in place. I have had to retain an attorney and Hill Top can ill afford this expense especially on the heels of the difficulties of the last two years that have had such a deleterious effect on all small businesses, Hill Top being no exception.