

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Elizabeth Jones](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 12:08:54 PM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 9:46 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 - 08:44

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

Tatum

Last Name

Owens

Title

The TCEQ can do better.

Organization you are affiliated with

Myself

Email

City

San Antonio

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

Hello, my name is Tatum Owens and I wanted to share that this concern about the TCEQ's regulations and processes is not that of simply those in Austin nor is it of simply young people like myself. The TCEQ must do a better job of protecting the public's health. Although I am a young UT student who grew up in San Antonio and moved to Austin, my interests are not in only making Austin a better city, but making Texas a better state overall. The state I've lived in my whole life, the state that my grandparents grew up in. This concern for better regulation of the beautiful state that is Texas is not just mine it is held by many. For example, part of the reason I knew about this hearing was through other environmentally minded, young individuals in Texas Rising who were kind enough to share their voice too. With them, I am worried about environmental racism that impacts so many Texans. We know and have seen through our communities and peers that more marginalized communities in our towns are impacted more severely by pollutants and their consequences. Low-income communities of color, which we know as "environmental justice communities," are often the most impacted by pollution. However, my grandmother also emailed me, because even in Boerne, a more well off town near the outskirts of San Antonio, there are water runoff issues that she has been working against. Even in the more wealthy areas of Texas, environmental hazards are an issue. Between the vested interests of different classes, regions, and age groups of Texas, we are all concerned. Therefore, her generation and my own are both equally worried about what the future of Texas looks like, is it one full of polluted water, grounds, and air? Or is it one of relying on being one of the main energy providers to the country, and moving towards renewable resources? I know that individually I can contribute work to making sure that there is a more environmentally friendly future of Texas, but that is quite literally this agency's job to make sure that that is easier for everyone else to fight for and achieve. 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 to members of the community. I implore the TCEQ to put public and environmental health first, ahead of polluters and those that fit the bill ahead of our common Texans, because the economic interests of polluters should always come second to people and communities. I am also here to ask that the TCEQ protect Texans by instituting more fines and corrective action in cases of violations of pollution laws. An example of how this could be done is through 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 to create a true incentive that would work to prevent polluters from destroying our state and its communities. Thank you.

Your Proposed Solution

I know that individually I can contribute work to making sure that there is a more environmentally friendly future of Texas, but that is quite literally this agency's job to make sure that that is easier for everyone else to fight for and achieve. 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 to members of the community. I implore the TCEQ to put public and environmental health first, ahead of polluters and those that fit the bill ahead of our common Texans, because the economic interests of polluters should always come second to people and communities. I am also here to ask that the TCEQ protect Texans by instituting more fines and corrective action in cases of violations of pollution laws. An example of how this could be done is through 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 to create a true incentive that would work to prevent polluters from destroying our state and its communities. Thank you.

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes