From: Sunset Advisory Commission

To: Elizabeth Jones

**Subject:** FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

**Date:** Thursday, June 23, 2022 1:40:35 PM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2022 9:57 AM

**To:** Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset.AdvisoryCommission@sunset.texas.gov> **Subject:** Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Thu, 06/23/2022 - 08:49

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**

Margaret

#### **Last Name**

Smith

## **Title**

**Executive Director** 

### Organization you are affiliated with

The Common Market Texas

### **Email**

margaret@thecommonmarket.org

# City

Houston

#### **State**

Texas

### **Your Comments or Concerns**

I support community health programs in Third Ward, Fifth Ward, and the Kashmere Gardens and Trinity Gardens neighborhoods. TCEQ must make environmental justice a priority consideration.

Systemic racism has led to harmful conditions for communities long denied by local and state governments full protections under the law. I am concerned about concrete batch plant sites near vulnerable communities and the lack of enforcement and penalties when there are violations and chemical disasters.

### **Your Proposed Solution**

Stronger permits are needed around concrete batch plants. The accumulation of diesel exhaust from trucks and soot from plants in close proximity present unequal health risks and nuisances in communities. Increased enforcement and stronger penalties are needed due to the lack of enforcement of clean air laws and infrequent inspections of facilities leave surrounding communities exposed. Additionally, state communications tend to be in highly technical English, preventing all Texans from participating in public processes and protecting themselves. Please provide additional communications in both English and Spanish.

## My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes