

Re: Sierra Club Comment on HGB 2015 Ozone NAAQS Moderate AD SIP Revision, Non-Rule Project No. 2022-022-SIP-NR, Docket No. 2023-0306-SIP

To Whom it may concern,

I urge TCEQ to implement the most stringent possible plan to bring Houston back into attainment for ozone pollution in accordance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards established by the Clean Air Act.

In their 2022 “State of the Air” report, the American Lung Association ranked Houston as the 8th most ozone polluted city in the nation, and explained that these emissions can cause premature death and other serious health effects such as asthma attacks, cardiovascular damage, and developmental and reproductive harm.<sup>1</sup> I am concerned about the impacts that this pollution has on my community. According to analysis by researchers at New York University and the American Thoracic Society, elevated ozone levels in the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land area cause about 116 premature deaths, every year.<sup>2</sup>

A large part of the nonattainment problem in Houston is related to the pollutants emitted from the W.A. Parish coal plant in nearby Richmond. According to a study from Rice University scientists, this power plant is responsible for an estimated 178 deaths per year.<sup>3</sup> I urge you to address this pollution in your plan, and require W.A. Parish to utilize already-available control technology to reduce the amount of ozone pollution the plant is putting into the air.

Additionally, a serious concern that I have regarding TCEQs plan pertains to tailpipe testing fraud and TCEQ’s vehicle I/M program. There have been reports that fraudulent inspectors can use a simulator device similar to a flash drive that plugs into the emissions analyzer instead of the car. The device simulates a car’s onboard diagnostic system and can be programmed to guarantee a passing result.<sup>4</sup> Texas investigators believe millions of cars on Texas roads never passed state-required safety or emissions tests. Yet, those cars were able to get temporary paper license plates, or even regular metal plates, by paying an inspection station to fraudulently pass the car. Even more concerning is the fact that these reports found the state’s inspection computer system is not programmed to catch fake inspections and immediately stop them. Please take action to reduce this pollution as well.

I do not feel comfortable knowing that a state regulatory agency like TCEQ allows for such oversights that have a largely detrimental impact on the air quality and ozone pollution that we are exposed to in the Houston area. Thus, I ask that you all enforce the most strict plan to ensure that the city of Houston returns to an attainment status and greatly reduces its ozone pollution.

Thank you for your consideration,

1. <https://www.lung.org/media/press-releases/sota-houston-fy22>

2. <https://healthoftheair.org/rankings>

3. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10962247.2018.1537984>

4.

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/investigations/fake-inspections-real-license-plates-investigators-believe-millions-of-texas-cars-were-never-checked-for-safety-emissions/3220698/>

Whitney Cloud

Hawley, Texas

“I want our children to have clean air and water.”

Betty Baer

Houston, Texas

“Clean air matters, please help improve people’s health and the health of the planet.”

Zachary Caswell

Houston, Texas

“I want to be able to breathe and my children be able to do so as well. With the health impacts of carbon emissions, it’s important to start curbing them as soon as possible.”

Alan Bair

Austin, Texas

“I remember the issues with the air pollution while attending U of H in Houston a few years back. Please make the new rules such that these issues can be improved for the current residents of Houston and Texas in general.”

Frank Blake

Houston, Texas

“I have asthma and I am impacted by the many ozone alert days that occur in the Houston area.”

Robert Stark

Houston, Texas

Sally Jacques

Austin, Texas

Kate Kavanagh

Austin, Texas

Donald Gentz

Port Aransas, Texas

William Forbes

Nacogdoches, Texas

Leslie Frederick

Houston, Texas

Marce Walsh

Houston, Texas

Juliana Boswell  
Austin, Texas

Rainbow Di Benedetto  
Austin, Texas  
“Please do the right thing for Texans.”

Karen Sterling  
Cedar Creek, Texas  
“The climate situation is now a CRISIS!”

Genie Mims  
Houston, Texas  
“Everyone deserves clean air to breathe.”

Mary Whitehead  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
“Every person deserves clean air to ensure good health. Good health would save Medicare/Medicaid money not to mention enhancing quality of life for everyone concerned. Our people deserve better. Mary W.”

Laura Long  
Cedar Creek, Texas

David Mulcihy  
Houston, Texas  
“Ozone makes it hard for me to exercise outdoors.”

Sharon Gillespie  
Austin, Texas

Katarina Schumann  
Austin, Texas

Charlotte Goncarovs  
Houston, Texas  
“We need to do something about ozone pollution, yesterday. Every summer I get horrible high pressure, high ozone headaches. What are you going to do to protect us?”

Brant Kotch  
Houston, Texas

Claudia Morgan  
Austin, Texas

Bruce Keuneke  
Richmond, Texas

Theresa Winemiller  
Austin, Texas

Glenda Beasley  
Austin, Texas

"I grew up across the road from refineries in La Porte, Texas and I'm pretty sure my lungs will never be the same. I thought the refineries were "making clouds" when I was little. Indeed they were! Today I live in Austin and can't believe the smog I see around."

Wallace Knight  
Waco, Texas

"I am trying to find a place in Texas with air quality that won't cause me respiratory distress. I am looking to buy a home but areas like that in Houston are out, bad air quality and how many more areas can be automatically eliminated. No chance at all."

Judy Landress  
Ozona, Texas

Pamela Vangiessen  
Houston, Texas

Marie Sophia Vassilakidis  
Houston, Texas

"I am fed up with the air even in central Houston stinking like a swamp factory all the time, and I am sick of constant sinus issues (can't blame the heat or the pollen, I've been to other places with both but less pollution, and always feel better)."

Stephen Englander  
Austin, Texas

Ivana Ivancic  
Houston, Texas

"Some days there is just too much haze. Please make a decision that supports clean air and a clean environment for the citizens as well as nature. If there is available technology, industry needs to keep up because we should all be putting our health first."

Shane O'Shea  
Humble, Texas

Timothy Hissam

Pflugerville, Texas

Christine Liberatore

Pearland, Texas

"I live near Houston. My eyes tear when I am outdoors. My HEPA A/C filter can not filter my inside air enough. The air used to be clean. Some days are very difficult for two of my grandchildren with asthma."

Deborah Harter

Houston, Texas

"I grew up in a family that valued the natural world above all else. It is a source of food and of beauty, of water and of the fossils that preserve the history of our planet."

Harry Swinney

Austin, Texas

"I have breathing problems and ozone exacerbates the problem. The government should protect citizens by greatly reducing the allowed ozone levels, and the reduced limits should be strictly enforced."

Martha Gorak

Katy, Texas

Delaina Foster

Houston, Texas

"Please stand up for Houstonians' health and improve the air we breathe."

Lisa Stone

Houston, Texas

Kristin Lewis

Stafford, Texas

Deanna M Pena

Houston, Texas

Sharon Cloninger

Austin, Texas

William Lindley

Houston, Texas

"I know personally so many people with conditions that impair breathing and not just those of my age. Something more can and must be done to alleviate this problem."

Margaret Schulenberg

Round Rock, Texas

"Dumping one's trash on another's property is not accepted anywhere. Polluting is no different, and must not be accepted. Texas must accept the most stringent standards in order to protect our citizens and ensure that companies do not dump their waste onto others."

Robert Gilliland  
Austin, Texas

"As an older Texan with emphysema I urge TCEQ to implement strong anti-pollution measures."

Jim Mcdaniel  
Austin, Texas

"It's past time to start putting people's health above corporate profits, especially when so many people are uninsured."

Heidi Schmidt  
Austin, Texas

"Please consider the air we are breathing... I myself struggle with asthma, which is exacerbated by air pollution. I worry for children (and everyone) growing up and living here in these areas. Please make choices to support the people that live and work here."

Chris Nicolosi  
Houston, Texas

"From 2017 to 2018, illegal air pollution doubled, while enforcement actions by the TCEQ decreased. American citizens, children, grandchildren, and our wildlife have a right to a healthy environment. We don't deserve cancer now or later in life."

Scott McHolland  
Austin, Texas

"Everyone deserves clean water to drink and clean air to breathe. Especially our children and their children. Do not sacrifice clean air and water for the profit of a few to the detriment of the many. Thanks."

Raul Rodriguez  
Houston, Texas

Susan and Bryan Roberts  
West Lake Hills, Texas

Virginia Himelright  
Houston, Texas

"We are becoming seriously polluted cities! No reason. Please take steps to correct this."

Mark and Brenda Steuer  
Houston, Texas

“I strongly support efforts to reduce ozone pollution, as it is an issue very important to my family as we live in an urban area that suffers the brunt of air pollution from many industrial sites and highways. It is unconscionable that our government has not appropriately regulated the greatest sources of ozone pollution.”

Melanie Sinclair  
Austin, Texas

Robert Bollinger  
Austin, Texas

Edward W. Parken  
Austin, Texas

David Sanderson  
Nacogdoches, Texas

“Ozone travels north from Houston on the prevailing winds, and causes lung disease in the East Texas area. Please protect more than just Houstonites with strong regulation of the chemical industry there.”

Scott Swanson  
Austin, Texas

Gilberto Lopez  
Austin, Texas  
“We know the solution, we need to execute.”

Jean Thomad  
Houston, Texas

Elizabeth Schlein  
Houston, Texas  
“We need clean air to breathe.”

Sara Wood  
Houston, Texas

Neil Mcqueen  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Natalie Roehen  
Austin, Texas

“As the summers here keep getting hotter and hotter, it has become more urgent than ever that my beloved state of Texas remains intact with breathable air for generations to come. In particular, my home city of Houston has struggled with ozone pollution.”

Anna K  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Tara Lulla  
Houston, Texas

Roberta Beckman  
Houston, Texas  
“I have a 6 and a 2 year old granddaughter, who live in Houston, and I want them to be able to breathe healthy air and see the sky! I would hope other Houstonians would want their children and grandchildren to also. Our “state of the air” is horrific.”

Winifred Hamilton  
Houston, Texas

Denise Cantu  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
Amy Lagrone  
Austin, Texas

Taylor Reed  
Houston, Texas

James Klein  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Eli McKay  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
“I demand TCEQ to implement the most stringent possible plan to bring Houston back into attainment for ozone pollution in accordance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards established by the Clean Air Act.”

Brandt Mannchen  
Houston, Texas  
“It's time human life means something. We need protection for all from air pollution. Reduce air pollution as much as possible now!”

Clark Walker  
Victoria, Texas

“I speak not as a citizen of Houston Texas, but as a Texan who lives in a much smaller town in South Texas . Air quality in large cities is generally much worse than in the countryside, nevertheless, air quality everywhere is indirectly affected by bad air quality anywhere.”

Kellie Evilsizer  
Austin, Texas

Ling Zhu  
Austin, Texas

Tomas Rodriguez  
Austin, Texas

“Think of your children and their children. What matters more to you?”

Craig Nazor  
Austin, Texas

“It is time to finally reign in ozone pollution in Texas. For far too long, the various sources of ozone have been ignored; now the cumulative effects have become health and life threatening. It is time to make strong ozone standards across all ozone-polluting industries.”

Jason Richter  
Houston, Texas

Jacklyn Alford  
Austin, Texas

Charmine Hanna  
Houston, Texas

John Weber  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Lisa Brenskelle  
Houston, Texas

“As a person who engages in frequent outdoor sports, such as running & cycling, the air quality in Houston matters to me very much. I am very concerned about the continuing poor air quality in Houston. It does not have to be this way, and should not.”

Cardin Tran  
Houston, Texas

“Ever since I became a teenager 4 years ago, I have been under warnings left and right from the US weather service about the air in my community. Difficulty breathing is about a weekly occurrence for me, and I don't even go outside often.”

Claire Morris  
Austin, Texas

Elinore & Louis Cumings  
Rosenburg, Texas

Loyce Brown  
Smithville, Texas

“Let us all imagine it is our own loved ones breathing the air - do what you know is right! Greed is not a good look on anyone.”

Kelly Westkaemper  
Austin, Texas

“Being outside is immensely important to me and my well being - and yet living in Texas, I regularly get ozone warnings of unsafe AQI levels. I shouldn't have to sequester myself indoors day after day because of our inability to protect clean and safe air.”