

Progressive Fifth Ward Community Association

PO Box 88305
Houston, TX 77020

January 16, 2024

TCEQ
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

To Whom it May Concern,

RE: HGB 2008 Ozone NAAQS Severe AD SIP Revision - Rule Project
Number-2023-110-SIP-NR

I represent a community association in the historic Fifth Ward located in Houston, Texas and I am submitting a public comment on behalf of our organization. Given our community is splintered by Interstate 10, Highway 59/69, 1 superfund site, 3 concrete batch plants, 8 scrap metal yards, 1 active train yard, 1 chemical processing plant, 1 plastic processing center and TXDHS classified our neighborhood as a lung and bronchial cancer cluster, it is inconceivable that TCEQ is proposing to adopt outdated NAAQS standards for ozone that do not take population growth, cumulative impact and sensitive populations into consideration. Given TX is frequently out of compliance with federal ozone standards, a better solution would be to adopt NAAQS 2015 standards and not the 2008 standards. It is the equivalent of someone buying a new laptop in 2024 and using Windows 98 to operate it. We are suffering because TCEQ continues to favor policy that prioritizes industry over residents, specifically in marginalized communities. There is so much the agency could do to help, not only Fifth Ward but other communities that need stronger NAAQS guidelines to help Texans who are in closer proximity to pollution we clearly have no control over. We implore TCEQ to adopt more progressive NAAQS standards and practices that protect the lives of all Texans from ozone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica Hubbard', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Erica Hubbard,
Interim President/Founder, Progressive Fifth Ward Community Association