

KIM Hanschen

Every Texan deserves clean air and a healthy environment. I urge the TCEQ to implement the most stringent plan to bring the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria area back into attainment for ozone pollution in accordance with the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards as required by the Clean Air Act.

Industrial pollution, increased temperatures, and increased vehicular emissions are creating an ever greater problem. A recent story from the Sierra Club identified that nearly half of the Texas population is consistently exposed to unsafe levels of ozone pollution. That's nearly 15 million people that could be at risk. This is a public health crisis that we need TCEQ to address before it worsens.

The neighborhoods at greatest risk in Houston are predominately composed of people of color. No Texan deserves to suffer health risks because our state is falling further behind the federal requirements. This lapse suggests that Texas does not care for the health and well-being of its citizens, particularly those who are the most impacted by these failures.

It is time to change this. It is time to bring the standards up and submit a state plan to meet the federal requirements for NAAQS. It is time to do your due diligence and provide the most stringent regulations with these revisions to the 2008 plan.

Thank you for your consideration