

Brandi Bird

I want to commend TCEQ staff for the proposed rulemaking and for taking comment on raising the emissions inspection fee up to \$28.50. It's very important for the public to understand that the emissions inspection program is an opt-in program provided by private businesses that is not subsidized by the government in any way and that private businesses have to pay rent, pay employees, buy equipment and make the economics work, with the inspection fee that is set by the state. That is why so many locations around the state no longer offer inspections, because at the rates currently set they cannot make the economics work. Because real estate prices and labor costs have skyrocketed over the past few years, we believe setting the fee at a maximum of \$28.50 will stop the bleeding in the industry of inspection stations getting out of the program. This is why so many customers have to go to multiple locations and wait in long lines to find a station willing to provide an inspection. By setting the fee at a maximum of \$28.50, it will also create a market-based system where stations can set the price based on market conditions, and in areas where real estate and labor costs are high, they can set the price accordingly, and in areas where costs are lower, they can offer a discounted rate to customers. For all of these reasons, I support raising the inspection fee to the maximum of \$28.50.