

Carla Lamb

As an evangelical Christian, I take seriously the biblical commands to care for God's creation, to love my neighbor, and to defend those who are most vulnerable in society. As such, I have a deep concern for wasteful methane emissions and associated toxic pollution that put Texans' health at risk, contribute to the devastating impacts of climate change, and waste our precious natural resources.

The harmful impacts of air and climate pollution on our health are indisputable. Children (both born and unborn), pregnant mothers, older adults, communities of color, and individuals with heart and lung disease are especially susceptible to these pollutants. We need bold action to defend the health and safety of our communities and everyone who calls Texas home.

Now that the U.S. EPA has finalized new standards for wasteful methane emissions from new and existing sources, it's time for the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to start designing a strong state implementation plan (SIP) that delivers all the promised benefits to Texas. With more than 5.3 million Texas residents—including over one million children—living, working, or attending school within a half mile health threat radius of active oil and gas production operations, we need a strong plan in place as soon as possible to defend our health and to reap the economic benefits.

There is also an economic cost to inaction. Recent data shows that methane emission levels were over 4 times higher than EPA estimates. This amounts to 7.4 million metric tons of methane entering the atmosphere each year. This is enough wasted energy to meet the energy needs of half of the U.S. homes for an entire year!

It's now time for the DCEQ to implement the strongest possible state plan to cut the health and economic costs of methane pollution.

Thank you for your dedication to these important issues!