

Tatum Owens

These legislative changes are a step in the right direction, but TCEQ must do more to protect our communities.

TCEQ must use its regulatory authority to prioritize public health when evaluating permits.

TCEQ must enforce violations when facilities break permit conditions.

In neighborhoods with higher pollution burdens, permit denial should be strongly considered.

Barring a permit denial, TCEQ must strengthen the permit and require enhanced pollution control practices.

Although SB 2351 grants TCEQ the ability to require certain concrete batch plants to adhere to the newest permit standard, it does not require them to do so. TCEQ should use its authority to require plants to meet the newest and strictest standards.

The current 440-yard setback is measured from the baghouse exhaust, not the fenceline, which does not adequately protect nearby homes, schools, or places of worship. TCEQ must measure this distance from the facility fenceline to ensure public health protection.

TCEQ must consider cumulative impact when multiple facilities are located in one community.

Facilities should not rely on self-reporting; we need fenceline air monitoring to improve transparency on pollution emissions.