KARINA YONEKAWA BLEST

The purpose of this comment is to express strong support for the proposed revisions to 30 TAC Chapter 116 which implement the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 763 and SB 2351. These revisions, specifically concerning standard permits for concrete batch plants, introduce necessary measures to better protect public health and the environment. All tax payers shoulder the cost of our healthcare. TCEQ's responsibility is to protect the people of Texas against environmental harms. We commend the TCEQ for proposing an amendment to add a requirement for a protectiveness review of the Air Quality Standard Permit for Concrete Batch Plants (CBP SP) at least once every eight years. This structured, mandatory review period is a significant improvement over previous regulations, ensuring that environmental standards for these facilities are regularly evaluated and remain current with scientific knowledge and technological advancements.

Furthermore, we support the proposed additions that enable the commission to require operators of unbuilt facilities under former standard permits to update their plans to comply with amended, stricter standards. This prevents potential "grandfathering" of outdated environmental controls and ensures all new construction meets the most current protective measures. This is a critical step in preventing future public health issues and aligns with the spirit of the legislation.

To truly ensure the efficacy of these rules, we urge the Commission to:

Commit to transparent, rigorous, and public-facing protectiveness reviews every eight years. Ensure the implementation of any necessary, stricter controls identified during these reviews in a timely manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these important revisions. We believe these changes are a positive step towards stronger environmental oversight and enhanced public health protections across Texas.