

TCEQ AND SECRETARIAT OF ENVIRONMENT OF COAHUILA SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Carlos Rubinstein, TCEQ Commissioner

Thank you all for coming to this very special event for us. You know we take great pride in our relationship with our sister states. We always look forward to working with them. Today is an event that we've been looking forward to with a great partner of ours, with Coahuila.

We want to welcome our friends with Coahuila. As well we want to welcome everyone also to the 2013 Environmental Trade Fair. You know these are especially important for me not only because most of my career has been working on environmental issues along the border but also because I was born in Mexico.

And, so being able to interchange these ideas and sign these memorandums of cooperation is something that is important to the three of us at the commission. But for me, I take great pride in being able to do that with great friends from Coahuila this time.

The goal of the memorandum that we will be signing today between the Secretaría of Environment de Coahuila and the TCEQ calls for increased cooperation and exchange of knowledge, experience, and technology related to the environment.

From the Secretaría of Environment de Coahuila, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Secretaría Eglantina Canales, Director of Conservation Alejandra Carrera, and the Attorney General of Coahuila Javier de Jesús Rodríguez.

And I know that she is around because I saw her earlier, we're also joined by a good friend of ours from Nuevo Leon, Norma Rangel, who we've also signed a similar agreement with in previous events as well. So I'd also like to recognize the fact that she's also attending and supporting this event.

Working together with our Mexican state counterparts is important for the protection of our shared environment and for the residents of the states on both sides of the border.

Before we sign the document, the memorandum of cooperation, we would like to take an opportunity to hear from Eglantina Canales, also from the Chairman of the TCEQ, Dr. Bryan Shaw, and also from my fellow Commissioner, Toby Baker.

First some remarks from Secretaría Canales.

Eglantina Canales, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente de Coahuila

A very good afternoon to all.

It is a pleasure for me to be here with you this afternoon and in particular to be here in this place.

I wish to thank the commissioners for opening the door to signing this memorandum of agreement between us.

I am very aware that the state of Coahuila will be greatly benefited by the quality, the knowledge, and all of the resources that you have here and the great work that you do here in the state of Texas in this.

I think this is the right moment to acknowledge all of the great work that Steve Niemeyer and Eddie have done, without whose work this memorandum would not have come to pass.

In addition, I wish to thank them because they are the ones that are going to have to bear the responsibility of carrying this forth and enforcing it in order that we, in a year's time, will be able to render good accounts of results to the commissioners.

I also wish to extend my thanks to Javier Rodríguez, the Attorney General for the Environment of the state of Coahuila, who jointly with me, we are the two of us responsible for the application and the enforcement of the laws as it has to do with the environment. And I feel that together the two of us will have the challenge of doing our part in our side of the border to make this a success.

Thank you very much to all.

Carlos Rubinstein

Thanks and would you all please help me welcome the Chairman of the TCEQ, Chairman Bryan Shaw.

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., TCEQ Chairman

Thank you and good afternoon.

It gives me great pleasure to see us work cooperatively with our neighbor and partners from Coahuila on the issues of mutual interest especially air quality which is one area that I am certainly interested in.

Secretaría Canales I especially want to thank you for coming all the way from Saltillo, making the long trip. I look forward to continuing to work toward improving our relations and to address the issues that we face together.

Thank you.

Carlos Rubinstein

Thank you Chairman Shaw. Next we will hear from Commissioner Toby Baker.

Toby Baker, TCEQ Commissioner

Thank you.

Secretaría Canales, I would like to welcome you to Austin and Texas, the greatest state in the United States. This is the first one of these I've had the opportunity to be part of and I'm excited about moving forward together.

As you know the environment doesn't recognize international borders. And what happens in Mexico impacts Texas and what happens in Texas impacts Mexico.

And so I'm looking forward to working cooperatively, moving forward to clean up both sides and continue the relationship that we have in place and continue to build a strong healthy environment and a strong healthy business climate.

Thank you for being here.

Carlos Rubinstein

Thank you all and also before we sign the agreement I'd also like to recognize with us today is the Executive Director of the Commission, Zac Covar, and the Deputy Executive Director, Richard Hyde. We welcome them as well.

So without further ado it is time to sign the memorandum of cooperation.