

Hello. My name is Greg Broyles. Before I start, I want to present your staff with this book (book is "[HIWI](#)"). Many of us Houston residents apologize for our residence here. Others of us are passionate about this city. This book was created by people who are passionate about Houston.

I apologize but this sort of thing makes me nervous, so I am going to read a prepared statement. I am here as a concerned citizen and as a member of the Galveston Houston Association for Smog Prevention.

I became involved in this issue because I observed what happened to school children during ozone events when I worked as a volunteer at an elementary school just a mile and a half north of here. I think I am safe in assuming that many of you have children and that all of you are concerned about the welfare of children. We all know the science of how ozone pollution affects them. We all also know how ozone affects people like my father who died last year of cancer and who became bedridden during his last year if he made the mistake of stepping out into high ozone air.

I am a twenty two year resident of this city. I love Houston. I have many friends here and I love the diversity and vitality of this place. My wife, who was fortunate to have a malignant growth removed from her breast in time to save her life, is justifiably concerned about environmentally caused disease. She is always looking for ways to persuade me to move to a healthier place. I tell her that the battle we citizens are

fighting here will be a model for other urban areas as this planet gets increasingly crowded and the environment continues to deteriorate.

I challenge each of you to drive in a different direction when you leave today. Stop and have a meal. Look around. You will see a city that is full of the world's citizens. You can eat almost anything from perfectly barbecued meat to fabulous and authentic Tamil curry to complex Vietnamese gyoan. Or you can try some of the best Tex-Mex in the world. Drive southeast of here a few blocks. We have the second largest theater district in the US. Thumb through this book I would like to donate to your offices. Houston is a fun and interesting place.

I would like to remind you of the ideas of Stephen Klineberg who teaches sociology at Rice University here in Houston. Houston is on the forefront of the demographic shift in urban areas in the US. We have racial and ethnic diversity that is a model for the world. Houston should be viewed as the global village that it is and as a jewel of Texas. Instead it is most often viewed as a dirty, industrial place. Dr. Klineberg also tells us that this second image of Houston may lead to its demise. If we cannot attract the "creative class", or so-called "knowledge workers", this city will wither. At what cost do we continue to postpone cleaning up this city's air?

At last night's hearing I heard something I didn't know. There was an admission that the re-categorizing of this region from moderate non-attainment to severe was due not

simply to our governor's whims: It was a concession that the 2010 deadline could not be met and that we need more time.

Is this not passing the failure of your agency onto the citizens of Houston? We already tolerate a burden on our health because we are not adequately warned and protected. Now we are asked to gamble the future of our city because there is not enough will at your agency to clean up this problem. Each of you has the opportunity to make changes that will save lives and perhaps even save a city. I urge you to rise to the occasion.

In closing I would like to reiterate some of the concerns of my fellow citizens. I have recently been participating in a project to monitor ozone in outlying areas of this region. We have identified much higher than expected concentrations in Sugarland and other unmonitored parts of the city. Please recall that Kingwood chemistry teacher Steve Pavel commented last night that ozone plumes affect his students' ability to learn. We need more monitors even if it adds to your task of getting "all the monitors" in compliance. We need ozone warnings quicker than the one hour they now take.

- We need more monitors for ozone precursors. During an evaluation of personal ozone monitors that GHASP conducted, we had a citizen who suffered from COPD carry an ozone monitor. He noticed breathing problems well in advance of elevated ozone. This suggests the possibility of other compounds but we don't know because where he lived only ozone is monitored. How can you test your model with so few AutoGCs?

- Please consider how you will enforce any new controls you implement. We at GHASP believe that the TCEQ does not do the best job of penalizing violators. We believe the fines are ridiculously low.
- Please do not allow the one hour standard to disappear. Ozone blows across this region very rapidly. Health affecting ozone events get lost in eight hour standard calculations.
- Please do not trade control technology for any sort of trade program.
- As Brandt Mannchen pointed out, please view NOx control as a statewide problem. Please control it everywhere you have jurisdiction.
- Please be aggressive with your programs. Do not pace yourself by regulatory deadlines.

I want to laud the efforts of you who are conducting this meeting and those of you who fight for the health of the rest of us. It is not lost on me that two of your colleagues frequently attend GHASP and Mothers for Clean Air events. This community appreciates their involvement. It gives the citizens a small reason for optimism.

Ms. Hildebrand, last night you told us that you interpret TCEQ rules under the direction of the TCEQ's commissioners. If we citizens are to have the ears of the commissioners, it is only through you and your staff. Please speak for us with passion and protect our interests as jealously as you can. If you are not passionate about this issue, please find someone on your staff who is. We citizens deserve this and expect nothing less.