

REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN RODRIGUEZ

— District 125 —

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Air Quality Division
Implementation Grants Section, MC-204
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087
ATTN: VW Settlement

Re: Comments pertaining to the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan for Texas

October 8, 2018

Dear Commissioner Niermann,

I want to thank you for this opportunity to provide input to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on the state's Draft Beneficiary Mitigation Plan (BMP) under the Volkswagen State Environmental Mitigation Trust. Our region has a successful track record of working together towards maintaining healthy air and the proposed allocation of \$73.5 million to the region will allow us to continue making improvements to our air quality.

Until recently, San Antonio was the largest city in the country still in attainment of the federal air quality standard for ozone. This feat was only possible through a regional effort and the cooperation of all the local stakeholders, including the business community, CPS Energy, VIA Metropolitan Transit, and many others. Thank you for recognizing the urgency faced by our community and the unique opportunity that exists in San Antonio to reach attainment of the federal standards in only a few years.

The Alamo Area Council of Governments conducted a study in 2017 to estimate the potential cost of nonattainment for the San Antonio region. The economic loss estimated by the study is between \$3.2 billion and \$27.5 billion. These estimates are likely to rise if San Antonio cannot improve its air quality before the two year deadline imposed by the EPA, making it all the more important that everything possible be done to reach attainment.

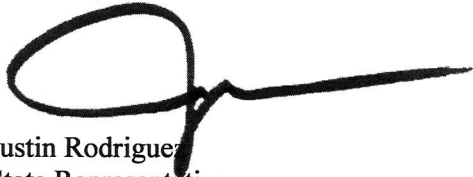
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DISTRICT OFFICE: 6502 Bandera Road, Suite 104 • San Antonio, Texas 78238 • (210) 521-7100 • (210) 521-7101 fax



TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

I fully support the allocation to the San Antonio area in the draft BMP. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a long, horizontal stroke that tapers to the right.

Justin Rodriguez
State Representative
District 125