



**TESTIMONY  
SB 171  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
April 14, 2009**

The League of Women Voters of Texas **SUPPORTS SB 171** by Senator Mario Gallegos. SB 171 requires TCEQ to establish Effects Screening Levels for air contaminants. These levels should be based on all acute and chronic health effects on a person resulting from exposure to the contaminant. Specifically, they should be set at a level that does not increase the risk of cancer to a person exposed to the contaminant by greater than one chance in 100,000 or “another level set by the commission to protect human health and welfare and the environment.” The League of Women Voters would prefer to see the chance for cancer one in 1,000,000 rather than one in 100,000. This is the level that is most protective of public health.

This bill also requires the TCEQ to consider this level in conjunction with air contaminants from other sources. It is obvious that air pollutants do not act alone in their impact on the human body. This additional consideration must be done in protecting public health.

We strongly encourage members of the Natural Resources Committee to support this bill, with the change that we have suggested. Thank you for your consideration of this bill.