



**TESTIMONY
HB 721
House Committee on Environmental Regulation
APRIL 29, 2009**

The League of Women Voters of Texas SUPPORTS HB 721 by Representative Donna Howard. This bill speaks to several matters of considerable importance in the field of air quality.

- It requires the TCEQ to track and publicly post a list of the emissions limitations for criteria air pollutants, mercury and sulfuric acid mists for the top ten permit applications most recently determined by TCEQ to be administratively complete or among permits issued nationwide.
- This list must speak to “best available control technology” or lowest achievable emission rate limitations. “Best available control technology” is defined using the federal definition.
- The TCEQ shall also consider the concentrations of ground-level ozone in areas downwind from a facility which is considered a significant source.
- Furthermore, the TCEQ is to consider the cumulative effects of a “significant source” facility—i.e., the facility’s expected emissions considered together with those of other existing facilities in the state.
- To obtain a permit a significant source or a modified significant source located in an attainment area, the source must meet the emissions limitations and other requirements of a nonattainment area, if the source will cause air pollution levels in excess of any national ambient air quality standard in any air quality control region in this state.

Passage of this bill would be a significant step in improving air quality in the State of Texas.