



**TESTIMONY  
SB 16  
House Committee on Environmental Regulation  
APRIL 29, 2009**

The League of Women Voters of Texas SUPPORTS SB 16 by Senator Kip Averitt.

This comprehensive bill has many features that deserve strong support:

- A New Technology Research and Development Program which specifically seeks to reduce oxides of nitrogen. It also provides for general research relating to air quality.
- LIRAP (Low Income Vehicle Repair Assistance, Retrofit, and Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program) and TERP (Texas Emissions Reduction Plan) program, which are a valuable part of reducing overall emissions in Texas.
- An energy efficient appliance purchase incentive program.
- Building codes which require the 2009 International Residential Codes for energy efficiency as well as the 2009 International Energy Efficiency Code for residential, commercial and industrial construction.
- Direction to participate with the federal government in developing a federal greenhouse gas reporting system. This is essential to reducing greenhouse gases.
- The requirement that TCEQ shall analyze cumulative sources of emissions for new electric generating facilities which emit 100 tons per year of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or nitrogen oxides. TCEQ shall consider whether the formation of ozone caused by the new facility will negatively affect compliance with the state's air quality state implementation plan. This requirement could be improved by adding that renewal of permits must be subject to the same review.

Thank you for considering our views regarding this bill.