



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY
Subcommittee on Appropriations Review of TCEQ**

February 14, 2011

The League of Women Voters of Texas appreciates this opportunity to comment on the appropriations bill relating to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

This agency has already had its budget cut significantly. We are concerned about several areas.

- The Air Quality Assessment and Planning Program is cut from \$7,075,000 to \$3,537,500, a 56.4% reduction. This program develops and implements statewide and regional plans, rules, strategies, and technical guidance to attain air quality standards. This is an important program to aid in meeting our State Implementation Plan (SIP) goals.
- The Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP) program is reduced from \$117,003,925 to \$57,165,047—a 51% cut. Reducing this program puts our SIP in danger of being out of compliance. TERP is part of the SIP, and any reductions that are made in reducing tonnage emissions must be provided elsewhere.
- The Low Income Repair Assistance Program (LIRAP) is completely cut. This program is estimated to reach 37,000 vehicles—either removing them from the road or repairing them from 2009-2011. Cutting this program entirely would be a mistake.
- We are also concerned about the reductions in Enforcement and Compliance. If we cannot properly enforce our clean air standards, we run the risk of increasing emissions and subsequent impacts on public health.