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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Office of the Chief Clerk
MC-105
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

May 14, 2017

Re: REQUEST FOR PUBLIC MEETING
Proposed Air Quality Permit(s) Numbers 146425, PSDTX1518, GHGPSDTX170

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am a member of Portland Citizens United and this letter is written to Request a Public Meeting regarding the above-referenced permit applications.

Portland Citizens United is comprised of a group of citizens residing in or near the communities most affected by the location of the proposed site for the chemical manufacturing facility. 1,594 local signatures were obtained in a petition opposing the granting of tax abatements by the County of San Patricio and the Gregory Portland Independent School District. The primary opposition to the project was not the abatements themselves but rather the location of the proposed site and the emissions that would affect the air quality and health of citizens nearby, including children and senior citizens susceptible to higher risks of respiratory illnesses due to the proximity of the plant to schools and homes.

The City of Portland comprises 26% of the entire population of San Patricio County. Its Mayor and City Council represent the best interests of its citizens. In a unanimous Resolution, the City Council opposed the project's construction, urging the applicants to seek a location other than the proposed site that would be farther from homes and schools.

At the Public Hearing to designate the site as a new reinvestment zone, the County Judge announced that the decision to grant the new reinvestment zone was based upon what was perceived as a "minority" position in opposition and the "majority must prevail over the minority".

While the new reinvestment zone was created for this Project and Chapter 312 and 313 abatements were granted to the project, it is vitally important to point out that **every elected official in San Patricio County**, from the County Judge to County Commissioners, from trustees of the school district to mayors and city council members, **expressed opposition to the site selection for this project** due to its proximity to homes and schools. Let us repeat...*every elected official publicly opposed the project site; every elected official asked the applicants to locate farther from neighborhoods and schools.* The applicants ignored these requests.

Portland Citizens United has initiated a second Petition *directed to the TCEQ. That Petition urges the TCEQ to deny the air permits.* While the granting of the new reinvestment zone by the County deflated many members of the PCU, there remains strong opposition to the plant. 392 signatures have been obtained in a short period of time.

Members of the PCU have homes within 100 yards of the project site; members have children who attend the schools in close proximity to the site; members have varying degrees of health related illnesses that will be exacerbated by the emissions from this site; members have lived in the affected community for as many as 40 + years.

While we may have been called a minority, there are well over a thousand individuals who oppose this plant. We created a website specifically dedicated to this issue and our facebook page reveals the matter is of utmost interest in our community. There is significant interest in the application for these permits and Portland Citizens United is requesting a Public Meeting before any Draft Permit is issued. At this public meeting, we expect to have many questions directed to the applicant and TCEQ that require answers that are not readily discernible from the application(s).

Our concerns include emissions as outlined in the application, wastewater quality, ethane pipeline construction, rail lines, heavy load transport, traffic congestion, mobil air toxins, and overall environmental impact to our quality of life.

We look forward to participating in the Public Meeting.

Portland Citizens United

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By: Errol A. Summerlin
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