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March 11, 2024

The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor of Texas P.O. Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711

## Dear Governor Abbott:

I am writing to you today to respectfully request that you ask the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Commissioners (TCEQ) grant a Motion to Overturn Standard Air Quality Permit 173296 given to Texas Coastal Materials. On March 8, 2024, the TCEQ's own Office of Public Interest Counsel found that the staff decision to grant the air quality permit should be overturned because the proposed plant is too close to a church and school. State law prohibits a crusher from being located within 440 yards of a school or place of worship. LBJ is within 440 yards of the proposed crusher and it contains both a school and working chapel that holds regular services.

This permit would allow Texas Coastal Materials to build a concrete and rock crusher very near LBJ Hospital (LBJ), a public hospital, a Level 3 trauma and emergency center and one of the busiest hospitals in the state. Harris County residents that use this hospital are not just seeking emergency medical care. They are seeking care for all types of injuries and illnesses. This can include health problems caused to the lungs by the very type of particulate matter that this rock crusher would create. A crusher this close to LBJ would threaten the health of the staff and patients at the hospital.

On December 7, 2023, TCEQ held an informational meeting where a broad coalition led by UTHealth, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, faith leaders from The Metropolitan Organization, Harris Health, elected officials and community leaders and organizations expressed their opposition to the crusher. Over 630 people filed comments through the TCEQ website opposing the permit. Yet, on January 11, the Executive Director of TCEQ approved the permit but did not address the issue of the school and church inside LBJ being less than 440 yards from the proposed crusher.

Nearly three-quarters of Harris County voters just approved a \$2.5 billion bond to fund construction of a new LBJ hospital on the same campus; a new a Level One Trauma center to treat those with the most serious illnesses and injuries; and converting the existing hospital into a center to provide both in-patient and out-patient mental health care and other urgently needed out-patient care. The voters in every Harris County Senate and House District have shown their strong commitment to the LBJ location, and we cannot let this concrete crusher plant undermine the viability of this important taxpayer investment. Again, please direct the TCEQ Commissioners to grant the Motion to Overturn the executive director's decision so that the permit can be reconsidered. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,	
Your Name	 
Your Address	 
Your email:	
Your Congregation/Organization	

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Below are pictures of a concrete crusher plant located near 610 South Loop and Cullen. This is what concrete crushers look like and what they can do to their surrounding communities:







