

Subject: Support for SB356 Cost-effective Real-time Monitoring Legislation

Dear Senate Environmental Quality Committee,

Everyone has the right to breathe clean air and the right to feel safe within their homes. Your support of SB356 will help preserve these rights and protect industrial workers, local communities, and first responders by requiring Louisiana's largest chemical manufactures and petroleum refineries to continuously monitor, record, and report air pollutant levels at facility boundaries. Despite safety protocols, accidental chemical releases present a significant, persistent threat to the health and safety of workers, local communities, and first responders.

Worker Protection and Environmental Compliance. Continuous monitoring allows facilities to proactively manage emissions, adjust operations, and ensure compliance with environmental standards. Real-time measurements provide immediate data on potential leaks or accidental chemical releases allowing facilities to take corrective action before a minor leak becomes a major incident.

Rapid Emergency Response: During emergencies, real-time data provides vital, actionable information to emergency responders about the type and concentration of substances, enabling them to protect their teams and the surrounding community. This data also empowers local officials and first responders to evaluate the scope of an incident in real time and make informed decisions regarding the necessity for evacuations or sheltering in place.

Transparency and Public Trust: Required public-facing websites offer 24/7 transparency that can help residents feel more secure about the air quality around their homes. More importantly, real-time text or phone alerts provide immediate notice of the emergency and any necessary actions residents should take (shelter in place, close windows, evacuate, etc.), to protect the health and safety of themselves and their families.

By focusing on the top 25% of highest risk facilities and 17 most toxic pollutants, SB356 provides a cost-effective, common-sense approach to protecting the health and safety of Louisiana residents while providing industry with actionable data.

We urge you to vote YES on SB356. Thank you for your leadership on this critical public health and safety issue

Sincerely,