

## **The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce 2011 Position Statement**

### **Air Quality**

#### **POSITION**

The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce supports state legislative and regulatory initiatives which provide federally designated nonattainment areas and near nonattainment areas with state incentives and local option tools to achieve compliance with federal air quality standards.

With respect to air quality compliance, the Fort Worth Chamber urges the State Legislature's support of the following:

- Adequate funding of Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Program funds and the extension of the program from 2010 to 2013. The chamber urges the Legislature to fully fund the replacement and/or retrofitting of large, heavy-emitting engines to affect real reductions in emissions from the off-road emissions source sector; and rail relocation and improvements to reduce emissions caused by constrained rail capacity in non-attainment areas.
- Appropriations for the Aircheck Texas Program, formerly known as the Low Income Repair Assistance, Retrofit, and Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program (LIRAP) other mobile source programs and exempt TCEQ from the 10% budget reduction requirement to the extent it would require TCEQ to significantly cut funds for the LIRAP program; and
- Adequate funding to ensure clear authority and effective enforcement of the State Implementation Plan control measures related to mobile source emissions, including funding for state-of-the-art air quality research modeling tools and monitoring equipment; and
- Support TCEQs ability to issue necessary air permits and continue to run relevant air quality programs as well as the continuation of a targeted public information campaign addressing public awareness of air quality issues, the benefits of compliance and the public's responsibilities relating to air quality.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce recognizes that air quality and compliance with federal air quality standards has a direct impact on the public health as well as the economic health of our community and our state.

Attaining compliance with the federal standards is a local, regional and statewide issue of the highest priority. Given the integrated nature of the Texas economy, all parts of the state will benefit when air quality compliance is achieved. A successful air quality compliance strategy can be accomplished through a cooperative approach in which all regions of the state – urban, suburban and rural – work together to protect their shared interest in having clean air and avoiding sanctions.

Adopted by the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2010.

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President & CEO