



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State Representative Senfronia Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 5, 2021

Contact: Selena Saldaña
(512) 463-0720

Representative Senfronia Thompson files House Bill 1627 to Protect Houstonians from Dangerous Air Pollution

AUSTIN, TX – Today, State Representative Senfronia Thompson filed House Bill 1627 to address the ongoing issue of concrete batch plants affecting air quality in her legislative district and around the Houston area.

"It seems like every time we turn around there's another application for another concrete batch plant in another minority neighborhood, said Rep. Thompson. "I'm just asking that they take their business elsewhere."

There are more concrete batch plants in Texas than in any other state and Harris County has the most, at a staggering 188.

Currently, the City of Houston and Harris County are not involved in issuing the permit of these facilities. That responsibility falls solely on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and although TCEQ follows all of its protocols and procedures in its permitting process, it is rare that a permit is denied.

With no zoning regulations and cheaper land value, very few protections exist to help communities of color fight these big money corporations from building these pollutant plants near them. The health impact of this pollution is costly and overwhelming.

H.B. 1627 will give homeowners the added protection they need to fight these facilities by requiring the City or County to vote on whether or not to approve the permit. They will also be allowed to request a public hearing and a contested case hearing.

"Concrete dust and fine particulate have already affected the way of life for my constituents living near concrete plants. Many of those residents have reported asthma and other lung and health issues worsened by breathing in the dust," said Rep. Thompson. "We cannot make health matters worse for them, especially when we are fighting a highly contagious and deadly respiratory virus. It is time we end this environmental injustice."

###