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Homes, Daycares, Local Businesses at Greater Risk with Passage of Pro-Polluter Bill HB 40

AUSTIN, Texas – The Texas Senate passed HB 40 today – a bill that strips away the right of cities to protect their citizens from hazardous oil and gas operations – without debate. The bill was largely written by the oil and gas industry and sponsored by Sen. Troy Fraser (R-Horseshoe Bay), whose election campaigns have been heavily funded by oil and gas companies.

In response to the passage of HB 40, **Sierra Club Conservation Director Cyrus Reed** issued the following statement:

“This bill jeopardizes the health and well being of families across Texas. What the Texas Legislature has proven today is that oil and gas reign supreme over health, disaster preparedness, and virtually everything else – schools, daycares, homes, parks, local businesses.

Common sense amendments, which would have allowed for limits to how close oil and gas operations could be to these places, were summarily rejected in the house and not even offered in the Senate as the bill passed on a 24-7 vote. In fact, the House and Senate author rejected amendments to allow cities to inspect and enforce state rules, allow cities to require insurance or require shut-off valves in hurricane zones, or allow regulation of injection waste wells. In the coming years, if your home suffers damage because of nearby oil and gas operations or your health is affected by it, know that your ability to do something about it has all but been taken away by the Texas Legislature.”