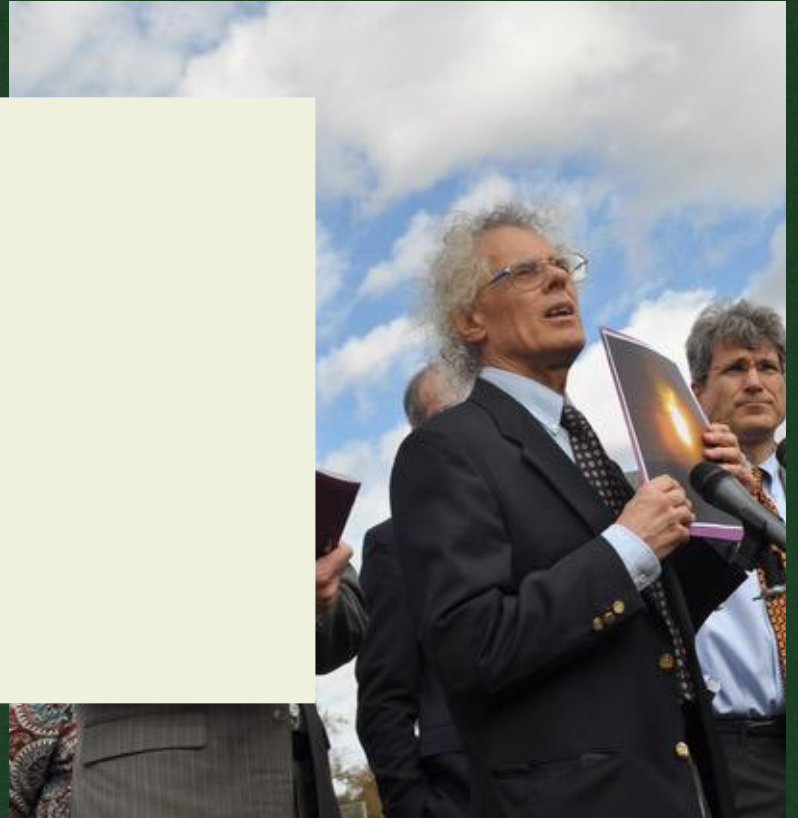
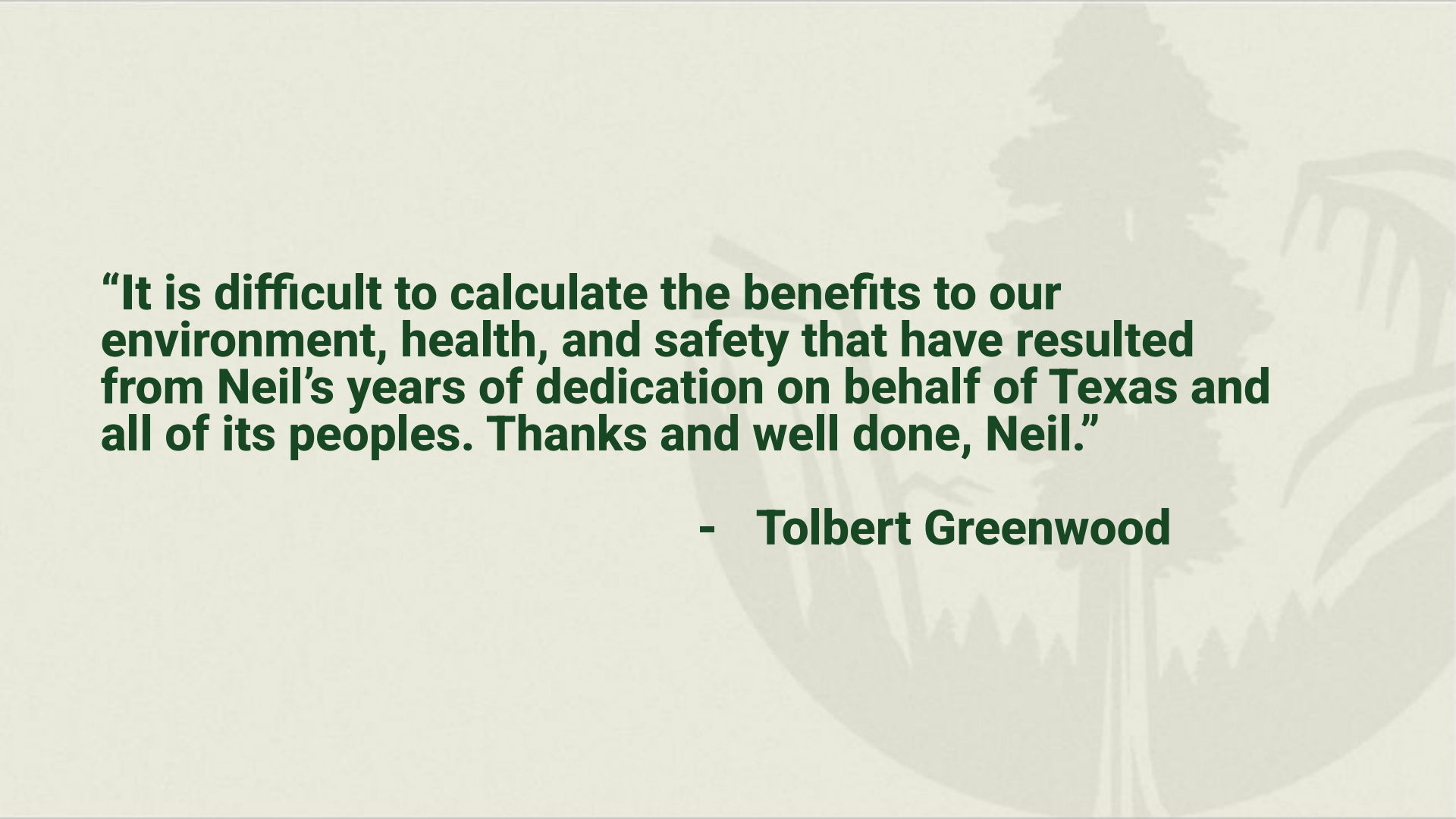


Neil Carman Retirement Celebration

Friday, April 24, 2026





“It is difficult to calculate the benefits to our environment, health, and safety that have resulted from Neil’s years of dedication on behalf of Texas and all of its peoples. Thanks and well done, Neil.”

- Tolbert Greenwood

About Neil

Neil Carman first became the Clean Air Director for the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter in 1992. Prior to coming to work for the Sierra Club, Neil was an air pollution control inspector for the State of Texas. Through his practical knowledge of air pollution sources, as well as his graduate education in biology and chemistry, Neil has brought to the Sierra Club and its Texas chapter a wealth of technical expertise and a knowledge of industrial air pollution and toxic substances that has added immensely to the ability of the Club to go head to head with industry in Texas – and win!



“I would never have been the motivated environmental advocate had it not been for Neil Carman. My first big fight for Sierra Club was against a cement kiln in Midlothian when I barely knew what one was. Neil helped us every inch of the way, explained things and advising the Dallas group and others in a way that a layman could understand. Back then, I didn't even think twice about committing the Dallas group to raising at least more than \$100,000 for this fight that went all the way to the Texas Supreme Court. And we did that and more. Neil is so generous with his time and knowledge. He has been my rock through good times and bad on permits and on other matters surrounding the club. I don't know what we are going to do without him. He has been a tremendous influence in my life. A true hero for all of us in Texas who know him. Thank you Neil and I fully intend to visit you in my home state of Iowa where you now live!”

- Rita Beving

Air board removes investigator after polluter complains

By Bill Collier
and Brenda J. Breaux
© 1999 Austin American-Statesman

Plant pollution in Odessa prompts complaints and lawsuits. **A10**



Fighting for A Cleaner, Healthier Texas: The Legacy of Neil Carman

A meeting in Austin helped expose one of the biggest environmental scandals in the city's history. Neil Carman had uncovered something alarming: state regulators had failed to act on documented air pollution violations at multiple gasoline tank farms in East Austin, and facilities were releasing carcinogenic benzene into surrounding communities.

“In 2000, I was working with the League of Conservation Voters, when we arranged what I called the Toxic Moms Tour to educate America about George W. Bush's bad environmental record as governor of Texas. When we reached our last stop, in Oklahoma, we had a guest speaker for our press conference, none other than Neil Carman. My first meeting with the Sierra Club's 'mad scientist' (as I used to fondly think of him) showed me his brilliance and deep commitment to the health of, and danger to, our precious planet. Amaze! Amaze!”

- Margot Clarke

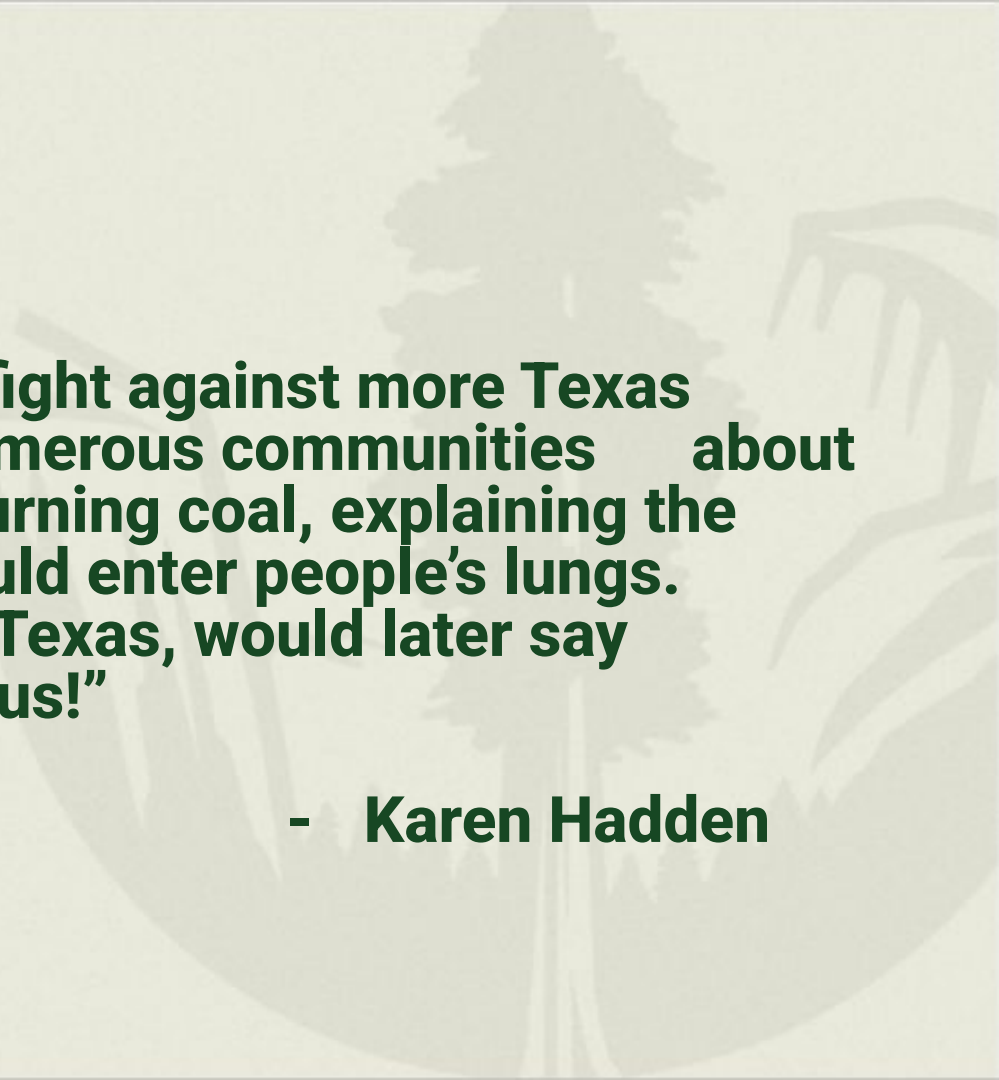


“I believe I first met Neil when we were both members of the statewide Environmental Equity and Justice Task Force convened in 1993 by Kirk Watson and John Hall (first in the nation!) Watson and Hall were at that time the Chairs of the Texas Air Control Board and Texas Water Commission, respectively. I was representing the Texas NAACP and later worked with Neil, Ken, Scot, Erin and others at Lone Star. Neil would blast in the office: arms and legs akimbo making mad dashes to the copier, papers flying and looking and talking like the mad scientist that he was. Neil is/was the Secret Weapon. Always on the side of justice fueled by data and evidence-based outrage. Communities all over Texas literally breathe easier due to Neil's courage and advocacy. God bless you Neil and thank you!”

- Leslie Fields



Neil's work has never been confined to long reports or stuffy offices. His work involved visiting sites in-person, reviewing key agency files, and uncovering problems others missed... or ignored.



“Neil was incredible in the fight against more Texas coal plants. He spoke in numerous communities about the toxic emissions from burning coal, explaining the tiny toxic suitcases that could enter people’s lungs. Robert Cervenka in Riesel, Texas, would later say “Neil scared the shit out of us!”

- Karen Hadden



Environmental Justice Award
Miriam Mathews-Felds

Climate Justice Award
Hector Gonzalez

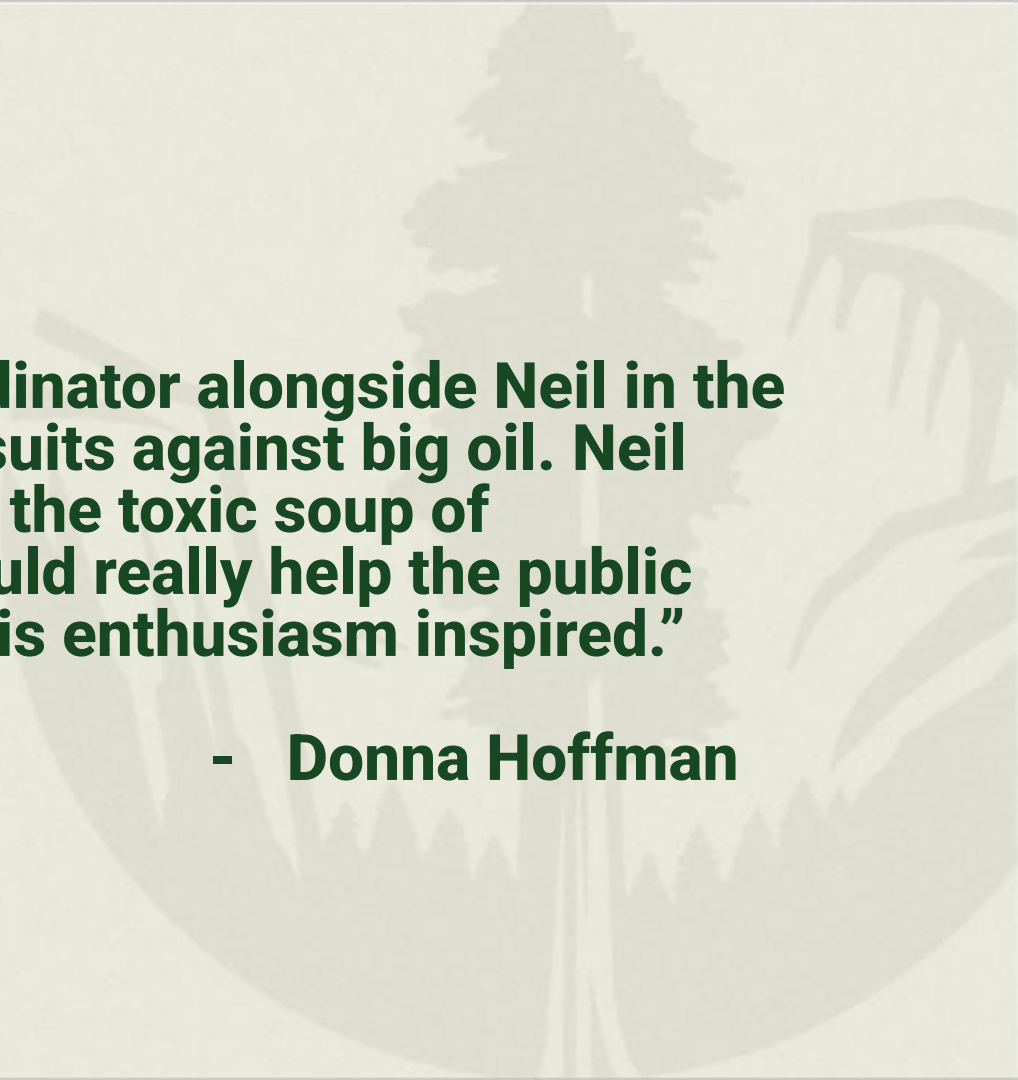
Joppy Freedom Award
Neil Carman

Environmental Justice Award
Brandt Maenehen

Joppy Freedom Award
Joppy Freedom's
Town Association

Environmental Justice Award
Julie Thibodeaux

Environmental Justice Award
Marsha Jackson



“I worked as Comms Coordinator alongside Neil in the coal permit fights and lawsuits against big oil. Neil had a knack for describing the toxic soup of chemicals in the air. He could really help the public understand the dangers. His enthusiasm inspired.”

- Donna Hoffman



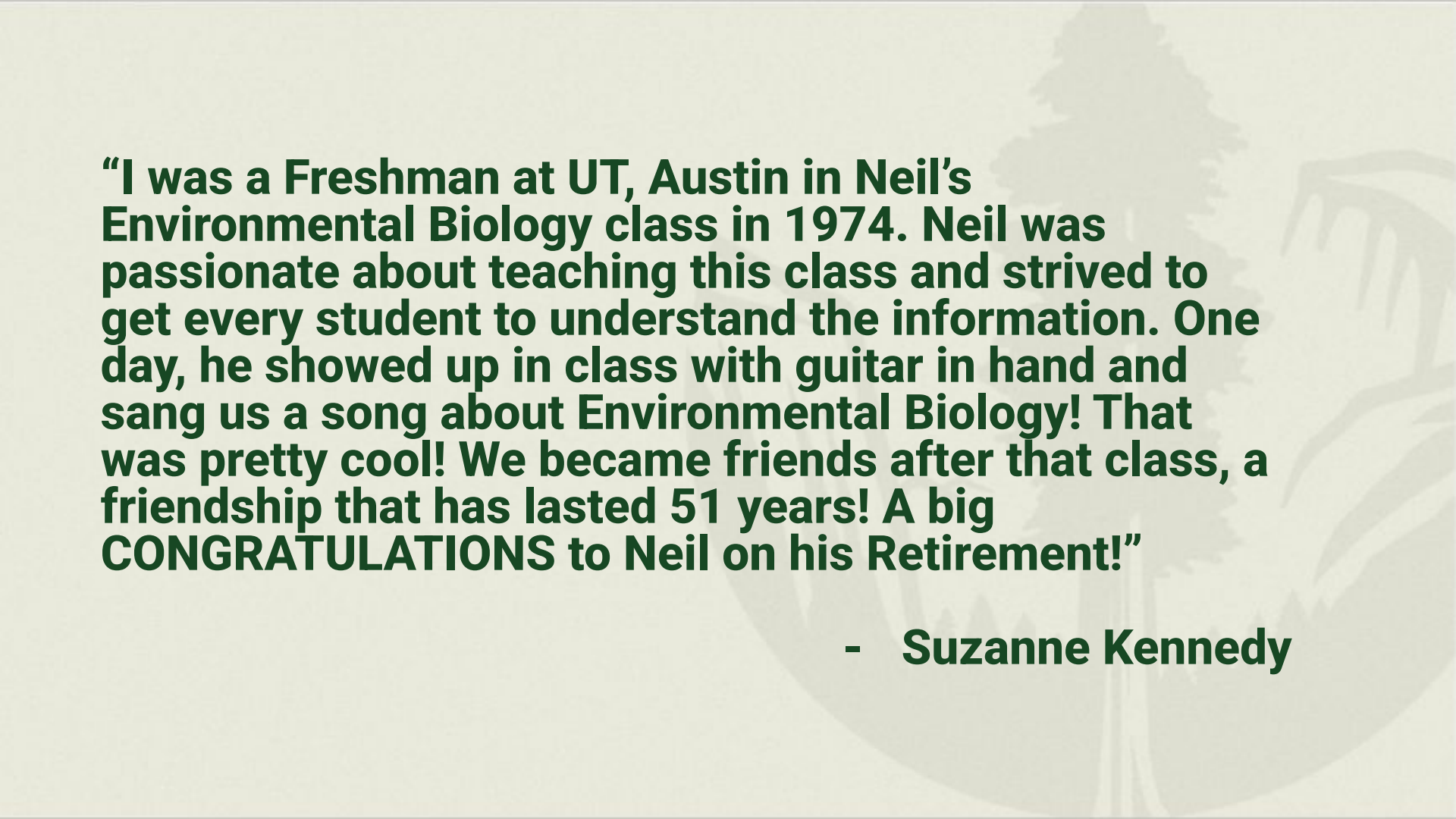
“Dr. Carman came to Texas City and one of the things we were doing was trying to develop a citizen watch dog group and a form that people could use to check off what they have observed, etc., which was an excellent tool, but I guess I didn’t have the funding to get it off the ground and although I did write several articles I sent Neil all of my original publications about the Texas City 1987 hydrofluoric acid spill cover-up...and I love and respect him dearly!”

- Bebe Jowell

Over the years, Neil has received numerous honors from community organizations, environmental groups, and the Sierra Club, including national recognition for decades of service. But awards only tell part of the story.

Neil's real legacy lives in the communities no longer being exposed to toxic air, the facilities that were cleaned up, controlled, or stopped in their tracks, and the policies that were strengthened because someone pushed for accountability.





“I was a Freshman at UT, Austin in Neil’s Environmental Biology class in 1974. Neil was passionate about teaching this class and strived to get every student to understand the information. One day, he showed up in class with guitar in hand and sang us a song about Environmental Biology! That was pretty cool! We became friends after that class, a friendship that has lasted 51 years! A big CONGRATULATIONS to Neil on his Retirement!”

- Suzanne Kennedy



Heidi Nutton

*Senate District 14
81st Legislature*



“There are too many "Neil stories" to mention! Suffice it to say I was thrilled to be able to hire Neil in 1992, and I appreciate all that he has accomplished to help clean the air in Texas and promote environmental justice.”

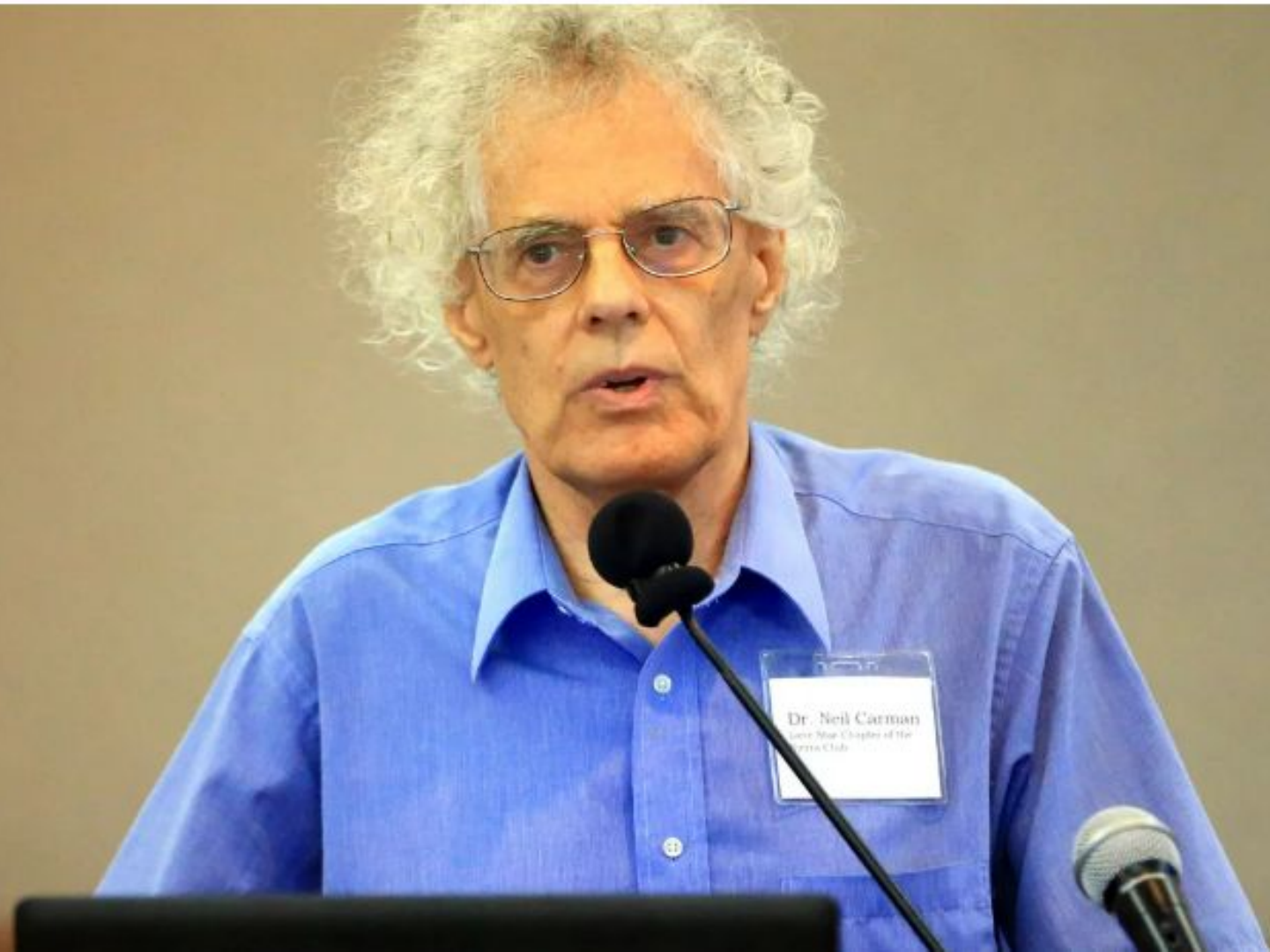
- Ken Kramer

Neil Carman, a man with curly grey hair and glasses, is shown from the chest up, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. Behind him is a wall display featuring a map of the United States, a spotted leopard walking, and a white crane in flight. The display also includes some smaller illustrations of plants and animals.

NEIL CARMAN
SIERRA CLUB

“I worked with Neil on four successful lawsuits against big polluters, including ExxonMobil. He is so, so knowledgeable about the industry and TCEQ and it was always fun/shocking to hear his stories of inspecting industrial facilities and the trouble he would get in for blowing the whistle on violations (which the agency leadership often didn't want brought to light).”

- Luke Metzger

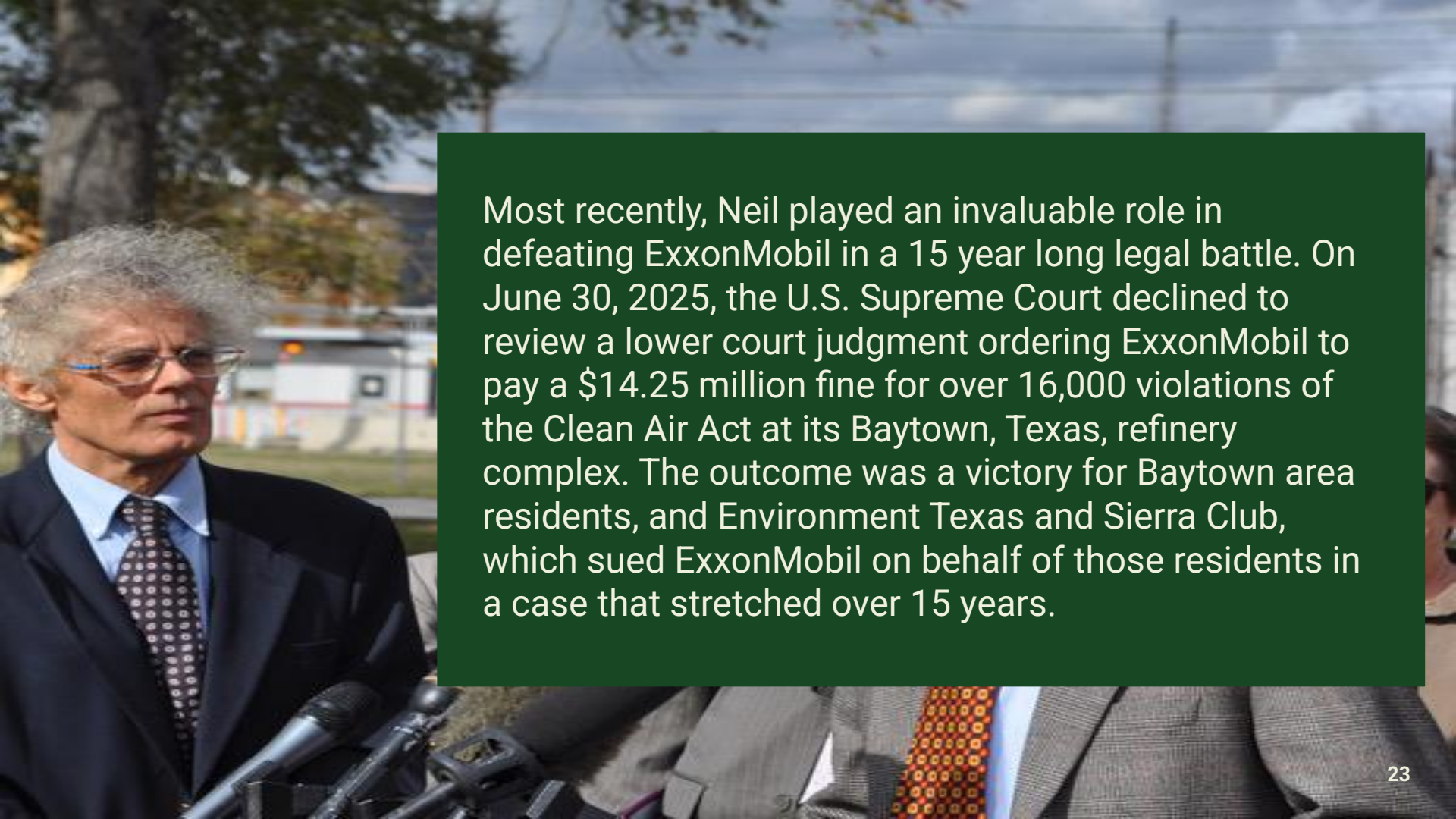


Dr. Neil Carman

Vice Chair, Chapter of the
IMA Club

“Love ❤️ all of the work he has done to help the Sierra Club and the environment!”

- Linda Mundwiller



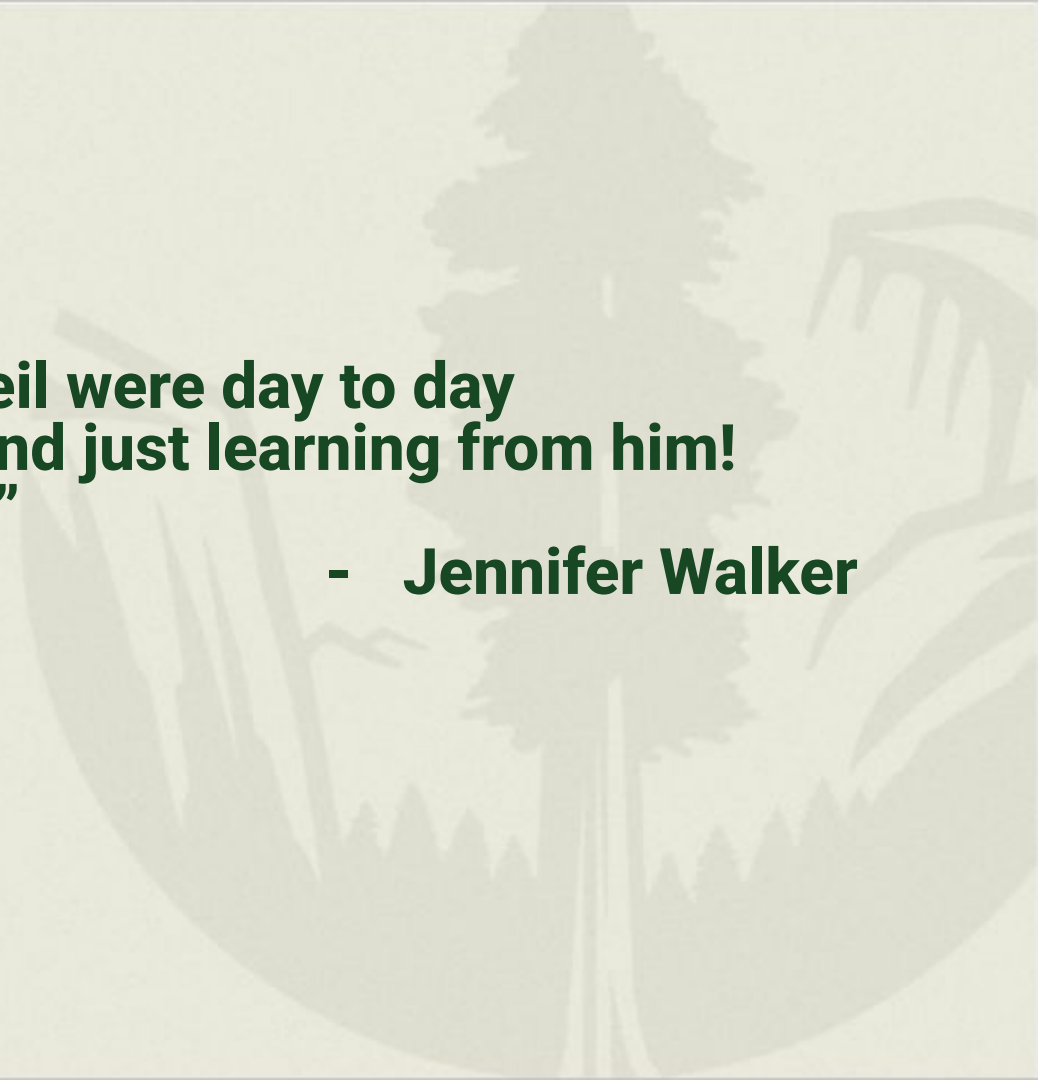
Most recently, Neil played an invaluable role in defeating ExxonMobil in a 15 year long legal battle. On June 30, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review a lower court judgment ordering ExxonMobil to pay a \$14.25 million fine for over 16,000 violations of the Clean Air Act at its Baytown, Texas, refinery complex. The outcome was a victory for Baytown area residents, and Environment Texas and Sierra Club, which sued ExxonMobil on behalf of those residents in a case that stretched over 15 years.

“Any number of tales from Texas. I remember his list of carcinogens he supplied in our Austin Group efforts to shutter the Pure Castings operation adjacent to an elementary school in east Austin. And we won. Also all the help shutting down the fuel Tank Farms along Bolm road. We were able to build stronger relationships with PODER as a result.

And his friendship which is a gift beyond words.”

**- Roy
Waley**





“My favorite times with Neil were day to day interactions, office stuff and just learning from him! He was a great co-worker.”

- Jennifer Walker

**Thank you,
Neil Carman**