



SIERRA CLUB

LONE STAR CHAPTER

To: Chairman Brooks Landgraf
Members, House Committee on Environmental Regulation
From: Cyrus Reed, Sierra Club, Lone Star Chapter, 512-888-9411,
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Re: HB 3100

March 30th, 2023

Sierra Club is Concerned that HB 3100 as filed could reduce the ozone reductions capability of the TERP program as a whole.

As filed, HB 3100 would create a hydrogen vehicle and infrastructure program within TERP and allocate \$8 million for the program. We are concerned that by allocating \$8 million it would take away \$8 million from the most cost-effective programs since the ERIG and Diesel Incentive Reduction program get the bulk of the money in TERP but only after the other named programs have been funded. We would prefer that if the Legislature wants to spend \$8 million on a hydrogen program then we should reduce the amount of money for programs that are not as effective at reducing NOX and VOC emissions, rather than impact the most cost-effective programs.

As a carbon-free fuel, hydrogen has the desirable property that its combustion releases no CO₂. However, H₂ combustion does generate NO_x since NO_x is formed when air is heated to high temperatures. Whether or not hydrogen fueled engines produce more or less NO_x depends on a number of factors, including whether the hydrogen uses fuel-cells or combustion engines. We believe that more definitive language should be added in the bill to say that a grant could only go toward projects that show a reduction in NO_x compared to other technologies. In other words, the incentive should be based on the NO_x reduction, not the technology itself.

Finally, we would like to have the project limited to non-attainment and affected counties. If the program is statewide then any NO_x reductions that result might not help our cities and counties meet the ozone standard. Thus, while we are not opposed to the creation of a hydrogen program, we believe this bill needs more guardrails.