

BORRIS L. MILES STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: Criminal Justice, Health & Human Services, Natural Resources & Economic Development, Nominations and Transportation

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senator Borris L. Miles Statement on Voting Against Reconfirming TCEQ Chair Jon Niermann

"My vote in the Senate Nominations committee against reconfirming TCEQ Chair Jon Niermann was a reflection of my community.

"For decades, industrial facilities like concrete batch plants have been disproportionately built in black and brown communities. This is environmental racism.

"Under Chair Niermann, the agency has been heading in the wrong direction. I have lost confidence in his ability to address community health issues. The Sunset Advisory Commission committee report even found that TCEQ had the perception of working for industrial industries and not the people.

"While many of my colleagues understood that TCEQ needed a culture change, the committee voted to approve another six-year term for him. This sets a dangerous path for TCEQ to continue rubberstamping industrial permits in poor and minority communities.

"We need to change the leadership at the top to protect our future. Senate District 13 cannot afford another term with Chair Niermann at the helm."

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