



American Planning Association  
**Texas Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

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Thank you, Chairman Hunter, for the opportunity to present the following information from the American Planning Association - Texas Chapter. My name is Heather Nick, and I represent the American Planning Association - Texas Chapter, and we are testifying in opposition of HB 2374. The Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association (APATX) represents public and private sector planners, planning academics and students, elected officials, and citizen planners in the great state of Texas.

As we all know, one of the most important aspects of government is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens they serve. By allowing municipalities to regulate the use of low-emission vehicles and equipment, we can all take important steps towards improving air quality and protecting public health. Low-emission vehicles and equipment produce significantly fewer pollutants, reducing emissions of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds. These pollutants can contribute to a range of health problems, including respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. By way of example, reducing emissions from outdoor power equipment could directly address local air pollution and environmental concerns and improve the quality of life in our communities.

Furthermore, encouraging the use of low-emission engines and equipment can also help to support innovation and job growth in the state. As demand for low-emission engines and equipment increase, manufacturers and retailers will have a greater incentive to develop and market these products. In a pro-business state such as Texas, this can create opportunities for new businesses and jobs for Texans, including in the manufacturing, distribution, and maintenance of low-emission engines and equipment.

In conclusion, I urge you to support the ability of Texas municipalities to enact regulations that require the use of low-emission equipment. By doing so, we can help to protect public health, improve air quality, and support innovation and job growth in our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Nick, AICP, MPA  
Chapter President, APA Texas Chapter

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