

MINUTES

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

10:00 AM

Capitol Extension, Room E1.012

Pursuant to a notice posted in accordance with Senate Rule 11.10 and 11.18, a public hearing of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, in the Capitol Extension, Room E1.012, at Austin, Texas.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Brian Birdwell, Chair

Senator Judith Zaffirini, Vice Chair

Senator Carol Alvarado

Senator César Blanco

Senator Kelly Hancock

Senator Bryan Hughes

Senator Lois Kolkhorst

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Borris Miles

Senator Kevin Sparks

The chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. There being a quorum present, the following business was transacted:

The following members arrived after the roll was called:

Senator Carol Alvarado

Senator Bryan Hughes

Senator Lois Kolkhorst

Chairman Birdwell called the following representative to provide invited testimony on the previously heard interim charge, **Overcoming Federal Incompetence**:

Office of the Attorney General

Lanora Pettit, Principal Deputy Solicitor General

The Chair laid out the following committee charge:

- **Cement Production Plants:** Examine the impacts of permanent cement production plants on local communities. Make recommendations to ensure they are strategically situated and uphold community standards while also fostering economic development.

Chairman Birdwell moved to include Senator Springer's letter to the committee in the public record. Without objection, it was so ordered.

The following individuals provided invited testimony. (See attached witness list)

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Jon Niermann, Chair

University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology

Dr. Brent Elliott, Associate Research Professor, Economic Geologist

Texas Association of Manufacturers (TAM)

Tony Bennett, President and CEO

Cement Council of Texas

Andrew Pinkerton, Executive Director

The following individuals provided public testimony. (See attached witness list)

There being no further business, at 2:20 PM Senator Birdwell moved that the Committee stand recessed subject to the call of the chair. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Brian Birdwell, Chair

Jennifer Trevino, Clerk