



### **Environmental Plan for Texas Congressional District 30**

Long-standing systemic health and social inequities coupled with environmental mismanagement in underserved communities have subjected residents to increased risk of health conditions. Corporate entities and government simply have not done enough to address environmental hazards and educating the public about the risks and the importance of protecting the environment. In an effort to address environmental safety disparities, market-driven solutions must be applied and the public must play its role in advocating for its own well-being including: modifying daily behavior, increasing recycling and trash pick-up, using of environmentally-friendly products, and relying on environmentally-efficient means of both public and private transportation.

According to a recent study by Paul Quinn College, there is a 15-year difference in life expectancy depending on the zip code that a person lives in. Unfortunately, Texas Congressional District 30 encompasses many of those low-life expectancy zip codes. <https://pqc-edu.squarespace.com/uri>

A more public example of this phenomenon was the Flint, Michigan water crisis and the tragic health-related outcomes. Unfortunately, many environmental-health conditions across America have been linked to: pollution, toxic lead deposits in water and soil, infrastructure neglect and improper disposal of waste. These are areas that I am very cognizant of and have mapped-out solutions to address.

### **Environmental Hazards in Texas Congressional District 30**

The following items have been identified as being problematic environmental hazards in Texas Congressional District 30.

- Shingle Mountain (70,000 tons of shingle discard)
- Lead in water
- Urban blight: illegal dumping, trash, and vandalism
- Toxic sludge in underground drains
- Asbestos and mold in older buildings

In an effort to address these concerns, I have set forth “short-term” and “long-term” strategies; which directly tie to my economic development plan “EARN-IT.”

[https://www.pennieforcongress.com/pdf/Pennie\\_EARN-IT-44b.pdf](https://www.pennieforcongress.com/pdf/Pennie_EARN-IT-44b.pdf)

The short-term strategies are things that I have already embarked upon as a congressional candidate running for office.

### **Short-term Solutions**

- Raising awareness campaign (billboards, radio, signs, direct mail, media)
- Meeting with residents about existing environmental problems
- Researching options to address the environmental hazards
- Promoting and organizing community clean-up initiatives
- Educating the public on environmental hazards and the importance of protecting and cleaning the environment

The long-term solutions are the things that I intend to accomplish as the representative for U.S. House in Texas Congressional District 30.

### **Long-term solutions**

- Focus on bringing in companies and offering tax-credits to support environmental clean-up
- Work with federal entities (EPA, HUD, HHS) to provide greater oversight and support
- Legal solutions: Address illegal dumping in fields and freeway underpasses. Facilitate legal measures to address the mismanagement of toxic waste
- Work with banks to provide low-interest loans for building owners to upgrade facilities to meet greater energy-efficiency standards. Remodel or retrofit older buildings
- Work with companies to help train workers to become environmental technicians
- Install industrial water treatment systems. Treat drinking water through reverse-osmosis processes to remove lead deposits
- Partner with companies to re-purpose waste and to remove hazards from buildings:
  - Invest in plastic recycling plants to convert plastics to fuel
  - Invest in companies that can turn shingle discard into tar for roads
  - Invest in companies that remove asbestos and mold from old buildings
  - Invest in companies to clean toxic waste from drainage areas
- Create environmental-friendly, mixed-use developments to include: affordable housing, retail, and commercial office space in close proximity to public transit
- Support the expansion of DART light-rail around these mixed-use developments



Dr. Tre Pennie