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## TEXAS ATTORNEY GEN. URGED TO JOIN CLEAN AIR LAWSUIT

*Abbott Campaigned Promising To Oppose Bush Admin.'s Gutting Of Clean Air Act Program*

(9 January, 2003 -- Austin) Environmental Defense's and Public Citizen's Texas offices have urged Texas Attorney General Abbott to join nine other states' attorneys general in their lawsuit against the Bush Administration for its revisions to the Clean Air Act's New Source Review (NSR) Program. The two organizations made their request in a letter sent to the Attorney General this week.

"Attorney General Abbott's campaign ads said he would fight for Texans, but he has been silent on this critical issue since taking office. He committed in writing that he opposed the Bush Administration's proposed changes to the New Source Review provisions of the Clean Air Act, but has failed to act on his campaign promises," said Jim Marston, Environmental Defense's regional director in Texas.

In response to a questionnaire from Public Citizen during his 2002 campaign, Abbott stated opposition to proposed changes for New Source Review. A copy of the questionnaire and the Environmental Defense/Public Citizen letter can be downloaded at [www.environmentaldefense.org/go/texasag](http://www.environmentaldefense.org/go/texasag) or [www.citizen.org/texas](http://www.citizen.org/texas).

Announced in November 2002 and made official on New Year's Eve, the Bush Administration's NSR rollback broadly exempts power plants and industrial facilities nationwide from long-standing federal air pollution controls. Health protections under the NSR program have historically required power plants, refineries, steel mills, chemical plants, and other large industrial sources that lack modern pollution control systems to update their pollution reduction technology when they take action that significantly increases air pollution.

"New Source Review has proven an effective tool in Texas, most recently bringing Alcoa to the table to reduce its pollution, and Gregg Abbott can show some real leadership by joining this suit," said Tom "Smitty" Smith, director of Public Citizen's Texas office. "Inaction will break his campaign promise and show the Attorney General chooses polluters over Texans' health."

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*Environmental Defense, a leading national nonprofit organization, represents more than 300,000 members. Since 1967, the organization has linked science, economics and law to create innovative, equitable and cost-effective solutions to the most urgent environmental problems. For more information, go to [www.environmentaldefense.org](http://www.environmentaldefense.org).*

*Public Citizen is a national, nonprofit consumer advocacy organization founded in 1971. It fights for openness and democratic accountability in government; for the right of consumers to seek redress in the courts; for clean, safe and sustainable energy sources; for social and economic justice in trade policies; for strong health, safety and environmental protections; and for safe, effective and affordable prescription drugs and health care. For more information, visit [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org).*