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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coastal Bend & Central Texas Residents Protest TCEQ Approval of Air Pollution Permit for Exxon/Mobil/Saudi Plastics Plant

AUSTIN, TX — Leaders and community members from several local and national environmental organizations gathered together at the Texas state environmental agency to oppose the air pollution permit that, if it becomes final, will authorize construction of a large new plastics manufacturing petrochemical plant near Corpus Christi, Texas. ExxonMobil and its partner, the Saudi Arabian petrochemical company SABIC have proposed building the largest ethane cracker plant on the planet one mile from Gregory Portland High School and Middle School. Sierra Club and Texas Campaign for the Environment, on behalf of their members who live near the site, oppose the permit on concerns regarding public health and environmental sustainability.

If built, the Exxon-SABIC plant will produce a variety of natural gas-derived chemicals including polyethylene, the most basic plastic -- all of it intended for international markets. The permit would allow the release of toxic and smog-forming air pollutants, including the carcinogens benzene and formaldehyde, acid gases, smog-forming nitrogen oxides and volatile compounds, and greenhouse gases.

This decision comes after years of controversy over this proposed plant and almost a year of legal wrangling between Exxon and Texas Campaign for the Environment and the Sierra Club.

Groups from Austin, and the Coastal Bend held a protest in Austin at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) headquarters.

WHO: Errol Summerlin - Resident of Portland, TX, with Coastal Alliance to Protect the Environment & Portland Citizens United
Dr. Neil Carman - Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club
Robin Schneider - Executive Director, Texas Campaign for the Environment
Ilan Levin - Attorney, Environmental Integrity Project

WHEN: Wednesday, June 12, 2019

WHERE: TCEQ, 12100 Park 35 Circle Room 201S, Bldg. E, Austin 78753 (Event will be Outside the Building)

“Given the enormous wealth of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Exxon’s 2018 earnings of \$20 billion, this is a partnership that had the resources to do more than just meet the bare minimum standards. Exxon made all kinds of promises to the community, but they showed their true stripes by opposing anything more than the bare minimum needed to get their permit. Shame on them.”

- *Errol Summerlin, Coastal Alliance to Protect Our Environment, Resident of Portland, TX*

“Texas Campaign for the Environment is standing with residents who will bear the brunt of the air pollution from ExxonMobil and Sabic’s plastics manufacturing plant. People in Texas and

across the planet are resisting plastic pollution upstream and downstream because of the climate effects and the health impacts at a time we are finding plastics in our water, our air, and in the bodies of people and animals across the globe - and just about everywhere scientists look for plastic pollution.”

- *Robin Schneider, Executive Director, Texas Campaign for the Environment*

"Exxon plastics facility will result in a lot more plastic pollution in our already over-polluted oceans. As this is the world's largest ethane-plastics plant we stand against it and all the complications it will bring to our coast and our planet. According to the emissions they are recording, it's going to be among the top 5 dirtiest chemical plants in the state."

- *Dr. Neil Carman, Clean Air Director, Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter*

"It's disappointing when our state leaders stand up for Exxon instead of for the people they are supposed to protect."

- *Ilan Levin, Attorney, Environmental Integrity Project*