

**A PROCLAMATION
AUTHORIZING RECOGNITION OF AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK 2023**

WHEREAS, air quality can threaten our environment, economy, and the health of the residents of Bastrop County; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced its worst ozone season in over a decade, with more than thirty days when ozone levels were unhealthy for sensitive groups and two days unhealthy for all; and

WHEREAS, Air pollution levels in Central Texas were considered “moderate” or worse on forty-seven percent of days in 2022, according to the National Air Quality Index; and

WHEREAS, children, older adults, people with lung disease and people with heart disease - which makes up about half of all residents in Central Texas - are particularly affected by poor air quality; and

WHEREAS, ground-level ozone (O₃) levels in the MSA remain close to exceeding the O₃ National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and revisions to the annual fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) NAAQS currently being considered by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could place the MSA at greater risk of a nonattainment designation; and

WHEREAS, remaining in compliance with the NAAQS is important not only for public health, but also for the region’s economy and ability to conduct transportation planning; and

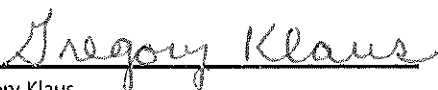
WHEREAS, Bastrop County supports the efforts of the Central Texas Clean Air Coalition and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promote air quality; and

WHEREAS, the EPA has designated May 1 - 5, 2023, as National Air Quality Awareness Week.

NOW THEREFORE Bastrop County does hereby proclaim May 1 - 5, 2023 as

“Air Quality Awareness Week”

in Bastrop County and encourages our residents and employees to take action to Be Air Aware and educate themselves about local air quality by visiting CAPCOG’s Air Central Texas website at AirCentralTexas.org and promoting air quality and air quality awareness within our community.

X 

Gregory Klaus
Bastrop County Judge
4/24/2023