



For Immediate Release

December 11, 2024

Austin, Texas

Local Advocates Honor KXAN First Warning Weather Team for Climate Coverage

On December 11, the Austin Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby, a national, nonpartisan, volunteer-led organization, honored the KXAN First Warning Weather Team, and meteorologist Jim Spencer, as Climate Coverage Champions. Spencer, who recently retired after 34 years at KXAN, was recognized for his pioneering work of incorporating evidence of a warming planet into his newscasts. The rest of the First Warning Weather Team, led by chief meteorologist Nick Bannin, have continued and expanded on Spencer's legacy by including climate messaging in weather forecasts, as they did recently when they reported that 2024 was Austin's hottest fall on record.

Other members of the First Warning Weather Team are Kristen Currie, Rich Segal, Freddy Vela, and Tommy House. All were present at the presentation of the Climate Coverage Champions award. Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer Dale Bulla presented the awards.

Citizens' Climate Lobby has long recognized that local TV meteorologists are uniquely positioned to help the public understand the connection between extreme weather and climate

change. By crafting weather forecasts that connect today's extreme weather events with historical climate trends, the KXAN team helps to educate its viewers about the impacts of climate change.

Citizens' Climate Lobby is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization with local chapters across the country. The organization advocates for legislation to support climate solutions. In addition to Dale Bulla, the Austin Chapter was represented by volunteers Cynthia Lesky, Pat Bulla, Susan Meredith, and Matthew Weldon. To learn more about the work of CCL citizen lobbyists and to volunteer, visit citizensclimatelobby.org.

