**Micah 6:8 Mission – Press Conference Remarks**

**Re: CAMRA Lawsuit | May 22, 2025**
**Cynthia Robertson, Executive Director**

Good morning and thank you for being here.

My name is Cynthia Robertson, and I serve as the Executive Director of Micah 6:8 Mission, a community-based organization in Southwest Louisiana committed to environmental justice, disaster resilience, and public health.

I’m proud to stand here today with other community groups from across Louisiana who are fighting back against a law that was written to keep people in the dark—literally—about what’s in the air we breathe.

The so-called *Community Air Monitoring Reliability Act*, or CAMRA, is not about protecting public health or ensuring good science. It’s about silencing communities like mine who have been using low-cost, reliable air monitors—like Purple Air devices and an EPA-funded particulate matter and NOx sensor—to uncover pollution that the state and industry have chosen not to report.

We started our monitoring near the Westlake chemical complex in Sulphur after hearing from residents who live, work, and raise their children near that facility. Over two-thirds of the days we monitored showed particulate matter levels that the EPA considers **unhealthy** — especially for children, seniors, and people with asthma or heart disease.

What were we supposed to do—ignore that?

We shared those findings on Facebook to raise awareness. We did – but not now. Now, under CAMRA, simply posting that kind of data could cost us $32,500 **per day**—plus up to a million dollars for so-called "intentional violations." That’s not just chilling. That’s censorship. And it’s dangerous.

This is about more than data. It’s about human lives.

At our community event this past Sunday, I asked the 47 people in the room to raise their hands. Everyone did. Then I asked them to lower their hands if **they or someone they love who lives in our region has cancer, then COPD, then heart disease, and finally asthma.**

And one by one, every single hand dropped.

That image will stay with me forever—**forty-seven hands raised in hope, and not a single hand left standing.**

That wouldn’t happen in most places in this country. That level of illness wouldn’t be accepted anywhere else without outrage and action. But here in Southwest Louisiana, it’s our reality—and the state’s response is to silence us instead of protecting us.

People deserve to know if the very air surrounding their homes, schools, and churches is filled with benzene, ethylene oxide, or dangerous levels of fine particulate matter. The state should be **thanking** community groups for helping collect this data—not **threatening** us for doing their job.

CAMRA isn’t about science. It’s about control. And it's about protecting polluters at the expense of the public.

We’re bringing this lawsuit because we believe our communities have the right to gather, to share, and to act on the truth. We believe in science that serves the people—not just the industry. And we believe in the power of neighbors helping neighbors, because when government won’t protect us, **we must protect each other.**

The air in Louisiana should belong to the people of Louisiana—not just to the chemical plants that line our rivers, fence in our neighborhoods, and poison our futures.

Thank you.