

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION  
IN ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS IN CHILE

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## **Abstract**

This paper addresses public participation in the decision-making process for the elaboration of quality and emission Standards in Chile. This paper shows that the low volume and quality of citizen public participation exists due to: (a) structural shortcomings of the current decision-making-process, (b) the lack of technical knowledge to participate in the process, and (c) the lack of political leverage to participate on equal terms with industry and public officials. The paper studies the forms of public participation that take place informally in Chile to explore solutions to the current archaic, rigid, and inflexible procedures. Finally, this paper proposes that non-governmental organizations can act as agents of civil society to bridge the gaps between citizens and decision-makers in the Standards process in Chile.

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