



THE TIPRO TARGET



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Association

White House announces new tariffs on steel and aluminum

President Donald Trump is reinstating and raising tariffs on all foreign steel and aluminum imported into the United States. On February 10 and 11, 2025, the president issued two proclamations modifying the steel and aluminum tariffs that he had originally imposed during his first presidential term in 2018 under Section 232 of the *Trade Expansion Act of 1962*. President Trump has suggested that he may be less willing to offer exemptions around the Section 232 tariffs, unlike when his administration first imposed tariffs seven years ago.

Analysts have indicated that tighter tariff rules on steel and aluminum, materials which are used by the oil and gas industry to build pipes and tubes, amongst other things, could threaten more cost pressures for U.S. oil and gas companies. Industry representatives and advocates are pushing for the Trump Administration to allow tariff exemptions for oil country tubular goods (OCTG) in order to support President Trump's broad energy agenda that has called for policies that provide American energy dominance and bolster domestic energy production.

TIPRO members can find more information on President Trump's executive action on aluminum tariffs [here](#) and steel tariffs [here](#).

Committee assignments announced for the Texas House

Texas House Speaker Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) last week released committee appointments for members of the Texas House of Representatives for the state's 89th Regular Legislative Session. Republicans this session will chair all committees in the House, as prescribed by the lower chamber's new rules, and every standing House committee and subcommittee is made up of a GOP majority, announced Speaker Burrows. Under the House rules for the 89th Legislature, the number of standing House committees has also been reduced to 30, explained the speaker, to enhance government efficiency and streamline committee jurisdictions where possible. "Assigning members to committees is among the most significant and intricate responsibilities of the speaker — one that demands thoughtful consideration and a delicate balance of many factors. Taking the time to get this right was not just necessary — it is what Texans deserve of their government, and I am confident these appointments will position the House for a productive, successful session," stated Speaker Burrows.

See below the list of members assigned to committees relevant to and of interest to the oil and gas industry:

- **Energy Resources:** Chair Drew Darby; Vice Chair Eddie Morales Jr.; Rep. Tom Craddick; Rep. Gary Gates; Rep. R.D. "Bobby" Guerra; Rep. Jay Dean; Rep. Paul Dyson; Rep. Josey Garcia; Rep. Stan Gerdes; Rep. Ron Reynolds; and Rep. Jon Rosenthal.
- **Environmental Regulation:** Chair Brooks Landgraf; Vice Chair Claudia Ordaz; Rep. Keith Bell; Rep. Ron Reynolds; Rep. Rafael Anchía; Rep. Ben Bumgarner; Rep. Penny Morales Shaw; Rep. Tom Oliverson; and Rep. Steve Toth.
- **Land & Resource Management:** Chair Gary Gates; Vice Chair Suleman Lalani; Rep. Daniel Alders; Rep. Matt Morgan; Rep. Wes Virdell; Rep. Yvonne Davis; Rep. Gina Hinojosa; Rep. Todd Hunter; and Rep. Ray Lopez.
- **Natural Resources:** Chair Cody Harris; Vice Chair Armando Martinez; Rep. Trent Ashby; Rep. Cecil Bell, Jr.; Rep. Mary González; Rep. Ramon Romero, Jr.; Rep. Erin Zwiener; Rep. Jeff Barry; Rep. Brad Buckley; Rep. Caroline Fairly; Rep. Erin Gámez; Rep. Josey Garcia; and Rep. Denise Villalobos.
- **State Affairs:** Chair Ken King; Vice Chair Ana Hernandez; Rep. Drew Darby; Rep. Yvonne Davis; Rep. Charlie Geren; Rep. Ryan Guillen; Rep. Richard Peña Raymond; Rep. John Smithee; Rep. Rafael Anchía; Rep. Lacey Hull; Rep. John McQueeney; Rep. Will Metcalf; Rep. Dade Phelan; Rep. Senfronia Thompson; and Rep. Chris Turner.
- **Trade, Workforce & Economic Development:** Chair Angie Chen Button; Vice Chair James Talarico; Rep. John Lujan; Rep. Terry Meza; Rep. Claudia Ordaz; Rep. James Talarico; Rep. Keith Bell; Rep. Salman Bhojani; Rep. Caroline Harris Davila; Rep. Oscar Longoria; Rep. Shelley Luther; and Rep. Keresa Richardson.
- **Transportation:** Chair Tom Craddick; Vice Chair Mary Ann Perez; Rep. Terry Canales; Rep. Erin Gámez; Rep. Caroline Harris Davila; Rep. Christina Morales; Rep. Jared Patterson; Rep. Pat Curry; Rep. Cole Hefner; Rep. Marc LaHood; Rep. Mitch Little; Rep. Eddie Morales, Jr.; and Rep. Dennis Paul.
- **Ways & Means:** Chair Morgan Meyer; Vice Chair Trey Martinez Fischer; Rep. Diego Bernal; Rep. Angie Chen Button; Rep. Sergio Muñoz, Jr.; Rep. Chris Turner; Rep. Giovanni Capriglione; Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins; Rep. Hillary Hickland; Rep. Candy Noble; Rep. Vincent Perez; Rep. Ellen Troxclair; and Rep. Cody Vasut.

TIPRO members can download the full list of assignments by House committee [here](#). To see House committee assignments by member, please [click here](#).

Chairman's message

Greetings fellow TIPRO members,

On Friday, February 7, state Senator Mayes Middleton, representing District 11 (Galveston, Brazoria, and Harris Counties), filed [Senate Bill 1150](#) to address the growing concern of unplugged wells in our state. This bill focuses on strengthening the Railroad Commission's requirements for inactive wells. An "inactive well" is an unplugged well that has had no reported production, disposal, injection or other permitted activity for more than 12 months. The ultimate responsibility for an inactive well is tied to the registered Texas operator's P-5 with the Railroad Commission. One of the main purposes of Senator Middleton's bill is to prevent inactive wells from becoming orphan wells, thus avoiding the state's plugging and abandoning responsibilities.

Depending on the source, there are far too many inactive wells in Texas. Enverus shows there are 180,891 inactive wells and 367,264 active wells in our state. According to the Railroad Commission's *January 2025 State Managed Well Plugging Report*, however, there are an estimated 155,511 inactive/shut-in wells in Texas. Other reported numbers fall between these two reported figures. While it is hard to determine the cause for the different counts of inactive wells, it's nevertheless a lot.

As long as these inactive wells remain tied to a financially sound operator with the intention to properly plug non-productive wells, it's not a big concern. The problem arises when operators financially fail or disappear, shifting the inactive wells to the orphan category, and then the Railroad Commission and state assumes the responsibility of plugging the wells. Although the state's orphan well count is a rolling monthly number, it is currently hovering around 8,600 wells. In 2024, the Railroad Commission plugged 1,012 orphan wells. It's being reported that even with an aggressive stance of plugging over 1,000 wells per year, the orphan rolling count continues to climb. In January 2025, the commission estimated its orphan well plugging costs to be \$10,870,000 to plug 145 wells, or ~\$75,000 per well. Further alarming, the Railroad Commission published that 46.3 percent of active well operators have more than 25 percent of their wells listed as inactive.

Senate Bill 1150 requires the plugging of an inactive well that has been inactive for more than 15 years and was completed 25 years ago or more. The bill allows for exceptions to the plugging requirement but mandates that an operator's history of returning inactive wells to active status be considered when the Railroad Commission reviews exception requests. The exceptions are non-transferable. Depending on the source of the well data, the number of inactive wells required to be plugged or returned to production is between ~25,000-75,000 in year one. Keep in mind that as each year passes, additional wells will now meet the age criteria.

This focus on plugging non-productive wells and keeping them off the growing orphan well list is not coming from some environmental group. It comes from within our industry tent. When not serving in the Texas Senate, Senator Middleton is president of an independent oil and gas company. In addition, our Railroad Commissioners have been asking for legislative help with this looming problem. At the end of the day, this potential draft legislation will change, and we as independent producers have to stay on top of this. Too strong a regulation will cause some operators to fold up and further increase the orphan well count. A watered-down approach grows the known problem in the future.

If ever we Texas producers need an advocacy trade like TIPRO, it's now. Watch your emails from TIPRO to stay informed. If you want to further engage, listen to TIPRO's State Issues calls, which occur weekly during the legislative session. If you know Texas operators that have inactive wells and are not TIPRO members, please encourage them to join and support our mission.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at [TIPRO's annual meeting](#) in Austin next week, where we will discuss the inactive well issue and many other important policies and regulations facing our industry.

Thank you,

T. Grant Johnson



T. Grant Johnson

TIPRO oilfield theft survey — request to participate



TIPRO expects all oilfield theft bills filed in the Texas legislature this session to receive a hearing. It's imperative that industry provides relevant and timely information to quantify this type of criminal activity. TIPRO requests that all Texas operators that have been victims of oilfield theft crimes fill out a survey we created to help us track this activity and effectively articulate the problem to policymakers. Company names and contact information will be kept completely confidential and any information provided will be anonymized.

A link to the survey is available [here](#). Please feel free to share this survey with others in the industry to increase participation.

Please contact TIPRO by emailing info@tipro.org with any questions regarding the association's oilfield theft survey.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 24-26, 2025

AUSTIN — TIPRO's
79th Annual Convention.
For information, email
info@tipro.org.

MARCH 18, 2025

HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA
"Leaders in Industry" Luncheon.
For information, email
info@houstonproducersforum.org.

APRIL 15, 2025

HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA
"Leaders in Industry" Luncheon.
For information, email
info@houstonproducersforum.org.

RRC gives update on implementation of new oil and gas waste management rules

Earlier this month, the Railroad Commission of Texas shared an update on the implementation of [new state rules](#) adopted in December by the agency, including approved revisions to 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 4, *Subchapter B, relating to Commercial Recycling*; and new 16 TAC Chapter 4, *Subchapter A, relating to Oil and Gas Waste Management*. The commission said it is inviting interested parties and stakeholders to participate in the implementation of the rules. The commission has published the following proposed implementation timeline for the rulemaking:

January – February 2025

- RRC develops guidance and forms

March – April 2025

- Guidance and forms posted for public comment
- Guidance and forms presented to Commissioners for approval

May – June 2025

- Training on guidance and forms

July 2025

- July 1, 2025 — Rules Effective
- July 14-16 — Training on guidance and forms at the 2025 RRC Regulatory Conference

For notifications related to this new rule, TIPRO members can subscribe to the commission's [Oil & Gas News email subscription list](#). After subscribing, please check your spam or junk folder for a confirmation email.

Texas joins coalition suing New York to stop unconstitutional law attacking fossil fuel companies

State Attorney General Ken Paxton announced this week that Texas has joined a multi-state lawsuit challenging New York state's Climate Superfund Act, a recently signed state law attacking America's energy suppliers. The New York law could impose \$75 billion of liability on major fossil fuel companies by requiring them to pay into a state "Climate Superfund" based on their past greenhouse gas emissions. The Climate Superfund Act punishes a group of energy producers for global greenhouse gases emitted from all sources into the atmosphere from 2000 to 2018, the group of state attorneys general contend. Even the Attorney General of New York pointed out New York relied on coal, oil and natural gas during that time, keeping the lights on for New York City's iconic skyscrapers and beyond. The state coalition is asking the court to, among other things, issue an injunction and declare the Climate Superfund Act preempted by federal statutes. Several industry groups such as the Gas and Oil Association of West Virginia and West Virginia Coal Association are also parties to the suit.

"New York's law is nothing more than an unconstitutional shakedown of vital American energy industries that form the bedrock of our national economic independence. In return for keeping the lights on and fueling our manufacturing, energy producers are being targeted for destruction by the left-wing policies of New York radicals," commented Attorney General Paxton. "The negative impact of this unconstitutional law will extend far beyond New York, and I am proud to stand with by fellow attorneys general to stop this from happening."

To read the legal filing, [click here](#).

New regional administrator named to lead EPA Region 6 South Central office

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced earlier this month that Scott Mason IV has been appointed as the new head of the EPA's Region 6 South Central office, which covers Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arkansas and 66 Tribal Nations. The EPA's Region 6 is headquartered in Dallas, Texas.

Mason previously served during the first Trump Administration as director of EPA's American Indian Environmental Office. He was also a member of the White House Council on Native American Affairs serving as co-chair of its committee on infrastructure. Most recently, Mason was the deputy secretary of energy for Oklahoma. He has served at the local, state and federal levels of government in various capacities, including as a vice president and the executive director of federal programs at The University of Oklahoma (OU) and on the staff of Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin.

"We are putting together a high-caliber team at the EPA comprised of experienced individuals committed to our core mission. I am excited to welcome back Scott Mason to the EPA, this time to serve as our Region 6 administrator," described the EPA's new administrator Lee Zeldin. "Scott brings with him over 20 years of government experience at all levels, as well as having served as EPA's director of the American Indian Environmental Office. He is the right person we need leading Region 6. Scott has the knowledge, talent, and dedication needed to succeed, and I am ready to get to work with him."

Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick called Mason's appointment as regional administrator of EPA Region 6 "great news for Texans." "Mason's experience serving at the EPA during President Trump's first term means he will hit the ground running to accomplish the EPA's mission: ensuring Americans have clean air, land, and water," said Patrick.

"I have had the opportunity to work with Scott Mason in the past and he is an excellent choice to lead EPA Region 6," commented Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Executive Director Kelly Keel. "I look forward to working with him on federal regulations that protect Texas' public health and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development."

Texas energy regulator and Railroad Commissioner Jim Wright also expressed support for Mason's appointment to lead the EPA's regional office, stating, "President Trump has made it clear that domestic energy production and maintaining a clean environment for our citizens are not mutually exclusive objectives. I look forward to working with Regional Administrator Mason on issues such as produced water recycling which will provide new sources of water for Texas while ensuring the long-term success of our domestic energy production."



U.S. House passes Congressman Pfluger's bill to prevent fracking bans

In a 226-118 vote, the U.S. House of Representatives on Friday, February 7, passed [H.R. 26, the Protecting American Energy Production Act](#), which blocks any future president from enforcing a ban or moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing without the consent of Congress. The legislation was Texas Congressman August Pfluger's (TX-11) first piece of legislation introduced in the 119th Congress.

"House Republicans are putting an end to the Democrats' war on American energy. Today's passage of the *Protecting American Energy Production Act* helps restore American energy dominance and protects the jobs of hardworking men and women," House Speaker Mike Johnson said in a statement. "This bill ensures fracking will remain an essential tool in our nation's energy production, allowing us to harness regions like the Permian Basin rather than turning to foreign adversaries for our energy needs, and helping to fully unleash America's energy potential."

U.S. Representative Brett Guthrie, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said, "After four years of failed energy policy from the Biden Administration, it's time to return to American energy dominance by generating the reliable baseload power our communities need. I'm grateful to Congressman Pfluger for his tireless work to pass *the Protecting American Energy Production Act*, which will supply affordable power, help to create family-sustaining jobs, and strengthen our national security."

Celebrating the passage of his bill, Congressman Pfluger called his proposed legislation "a necessary first step in reversing Biden's war on energy." "Fracking is a safe, clean, and effective way to produce affordable energy and strengthen our national security. This bill advances President Trump's pro-energy agenda to restore America's position as the world's top oil and gas producer. I am blessed to represent America's most prolific oil and gas producing region and am committed to unleashing energy in the Permian Basin this Congress," affirmed the congressman.

The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration, where it faces uncertain prospects.

GOP members reintroduce *Fair Access to Banking Act* to protect industries from debanking

A group of over 40 Republican senators, which includes John Cornyn and Ted Cruz from Texas, in February reintroduced legislation seeking to prevent large banks from denying fair access to financial services to lawful businesses or industries, including the energy sector. *The Fair Access to Banking Act* requires that lending and services decisions must be based on impartial, risk-based analysis, not political or reputational favoritism. The bill is based on President Trump's Fair Access Rule, which was introduced during his first administration and required financial institutions to make individual risk assessments rather than broad decisions regarding entire industries or categories of customers. *The Fair Access to Banking Act* codifies these protections. The Biden Administration paused the rule's implementation in early 2021.

The U.S. Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee held a [hearing](#) on the legislation and debanking on Feb. 5, where Committee Chairman Tim Scott (R-South Carolina) pledged that the committee will work to find solutions to address this issue, and reiterated that no regulator, and no bank, is above the principles of fairness and market access.

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Texas congressmen back CRA resolution reversing Biden methane fee

Texas Congressmen August Pfluger (TX-11) and Jodey Arrington (TX-19) in February introduced a bicameral Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution of disapproval overturning the former administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations implementing the Waste Emissions Charge (WEC) on petroleum and natural gas systems, which was passed as part of the *Inflation Reduction Act* in 2022. In the U.S. Senate, U.S. Senators for Texas John Cornyn and Ted Cruz are cosponsoring the resolution.

"The Biden Administration's progressive energy policies resulted in record-high energy prices for American consumers and harmed the booming energy industry in Texas and beyond," said Senator Cornyn. "I am proud to join this CRA alongside Republican colleagues in both chambers to prevent the previous administration's misguided waste emissions charge on oil and natural gas systems from going into effect."

"As part of his war on energy, former President Biden took radical steps to end fossil fuels during his administration which hurt the hardworking energy producers in my district who have worked diligently to increase production while fueling our allies abroad," reflected Representative Pfluger. "Biden's burdensome natural gas tax has handicapped technological innovation, reduced supplies of affordable energy, and increased both costs and emissions. With President Trump back in office, it is time to restore American energy dominance – which is why I am proud to lead this CRA to rescind this ill-conceived natural gas tax."

Text of the CRA is available [here](#).

Already, Congressman Pfluger and Senator Cruz earlier this year also introduced separate legislation that would eliminate the WEC. To see this bill, called *the Natural Gas Tax Repeal Act*, [click here](#).

National Energy Dominance Council formally established by President Trump

A new executive order signed in mid-February by President Donald Trump has formally established the National Energy Dominance Council. The council will serve within the executive office of the president and be chaired by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum and vice-chaired by the U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright. Other members of President Trump's cabinet and heads of key government agencies also will sit on the council and collectively advise the president on strategies to achieve energy dominance by improving the processes for permitting, production, generation, distribution, regulation, and transportation across all forms of American energy.

The National Energy Dominance Council has also further been directed by President Trump to recommend a National Energy Dominance Strategy aimed at cutting red tape, enhancing private sector investments, and advancing innovation. The council in its efforts will facilitate cooperation between the federal government and domestic energy partners, ensuring policy consistency, and will also consult with various public and private sector stakeholders to expand energy production and address cost barriers.

TIPRO members can review a fact sheet from the White House about the new National Energy Dominance Council [here](#).

CEO of PetroNerds, Trisha Curtis, will review oil and gas trends at the next 'Leaders' luncheon

At the next 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon on Tuesday, March 18, Trisha Curtis, industry expert and head of PetroNerds, will share insights on oil and gas trends that could impact Texas energy producers.

Curtis is the president and CEO of PetroNerds. She founded the company and began running it out of Denver, Colorado, in 2016. At PetroNerds, Curtis leads research, advising and consulting services. She is a macroeconomist with an expertise in U.S. shale markets, geopolitics and China. Curtis provides clients with in-depth analysis of the U.S. and world economy, geopolitics, global oil and gas markets, and the U.S. shale industry. She synthesizes this into relevant, actionable, and forecastable information integral to her clients and their respective businesses and needs. She is globally recognized for her knowledge of U.S. shale and has been asked to speak and present at several academic, industry, and investor forums including OPEC in Vienna, SPE in Bahrain, IEF in Saudi Arabia, Stanford University, Chatham House, Oxford University, Denver University, and Colorado School of Mines. She is also the host of the PetroNerds podcast.



The 'Leaders in Industry' event, hosted monthly by the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), Houston Producers Forum and Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), will be held at the Petroleum Club in Houston. To sign up to attend the March luncheon, [click here](#).

TIPRO membership meeting notice

In accordance with Article IV, Section 1, of the TIPRO Bylaws, TIPRO Chairman T. Grant Johnson has called a membership meeting for all TIPRO members in conjunction with the [79th TIPRO Annual Convention](#). The 2025 annual membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25th at 1:00 p.m. at the Otis Hotel in Austin, Texas.

The board has approved the following candidates nominated by the TIPRO Nominations Committee and hereby presents the slate of recommended candidates for members of the association to vote on during TIPRO's upcoming annual meeting. Director and officer nominees, if approved by TIPRO membership, would begin their respective terms on July 1, 2025.

In accordance with Article V, Section 2, of the TIPRO Bylaws, the following candidates are presented for consideration by the membership:

- Pamela Roth, EOG Resources — At-Large Representative, Second Term
- Tommy Taylor, Fasken Oil and Ranch — At-Large Representative, Second Term
- Bill Wallace, Wallace Petroleum Investments, Inc. — At-Large Representative, First Term
- Bryan Erman, Matador — Region 3 Class A Director, First Term
- Marc Dinger, Diamondback Energy — Region 5 Class A Director, Second Term

TIPRO thanks all the candidates for graciously accepting their nominations and agreeing to serve on TIPRO's Board of Directors.



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Energy Department issues first LNG export authorization since LNG permitting pause was lifted

On Friday, February 14, U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright joined President Donald Trump to announce a new export authorization issued for the Commonwealth LNG project proposed for Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The approval of the U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) authorization represents the first major LNG project to receive an export authorization for non-free trade agreement (FTA) countries since President Trump and the Department of Energy lifted the Biden Administration's freeze on LNG export permit approvals.

"President Trump has outlined a bold agenda for unleashing American energy dominance, and restoring regular order on U.S. LNG export permits is critical for meeting this commitment to the American people," Secretary Wright said. "Today marks one of many steps that DOE will be taking to assure our future as a reliable energy supplier to the world and resume regular order to our regulatory responsibilities over natural gas exports. Exporting American LNG strengthens the U.S. economy and supports American jobs while bolstering energy security around the world, and I am proud to be working with President Trump to get American energy exports back on track."

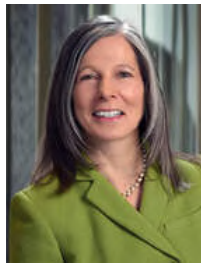
Once constructed, Commonwealth LNG, owned by Kimmeridge Texas Gas, LLC, will be able to export over 1.2 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) of natural gas as LNG, further cementing the United States' position as the top global exporter of LNG.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's most recent *Short-Term Energy Outlook*, current U.S. LNG exports are expected to reach record highs in 2025, averaging over 15 Bcf/d. These record export levels are accompanied by record highs in current U.S. natural gas production of almost 105 Bcf/d.

President Trump nominates head of oil and gas industry trade group to manage the BLM

President Donald Trump has nominated Kathleen Sgamma, of Colorado, to be his administration's director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a branch of the U.S. Department of Interior that is the nation's largest land manager, overseeing roughly 245 million acres of public lands and 700 million acres of mineral estate. A strong advocate for the oil and natural gas industry, Sgamma currently is the president of the Western Energy Alliance, an industry trade group based out of Colorado that represents oil and gas companies that operate on federal lands. She joined the alliance in March 2006. Before that, she spent 11 years in the Information Technology (IT) sector.

If confirmed to head up the BLM by the U.S. Senate, Sgamma would join other Trump cabinet members including Interior Secretary Doug Burgum in advancing the president's energy agenda focused on American energy dominance and ensuring the responsible stewardship of the nation's public lands and resources.



Congressional panel to review energy reliability in the U.S.

U.S. lawmakers will meet next week for a hearing focused on strengthening energy reliability in the United States. On Wednesday, February 26, members of the House Oversight Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs will hold a hearing on Capitol Hill titled "Leading the Charge: Opportunities to Strengthen America's Energy Reliability." At next Wednesday's hearing, legislators will evaluate issues impacting the power grid, challenges facing new innovation and policies to reduce energy costs for consumers. The subcommittee will work to support the Trump Administration's agenda and explore innovative ways to cut back on burdensome regulations and streamline permitting processes.

"Hard working Americans deserve affordable, reliable energy. For far too long, suffocating regulations and unnecessary red tape have stifled innovation, hamstrung energy producers, and driven up prices for American families and businesses. This subcommittee stands ready to assist President Trump in the fight to restore American energy dominance and ensure Americans have reliable energy at lower prices. During next week's hearing, we will push back on the Biden Administration's excessive regulations and champion needed reforms. It is time to cut prices, grow our economy, and support American-made energy," said Congressman Eric Burlison (R-Missouri), the subcommittee's chairman.

Alex Epstein, president and founder of the Center for Industrial Progress, will testify during the upcoming legislative hearing, as well as former EPA Chief of Staff Mandy Gunasekara and Alex Herrgott, chief executive officer and president of The Permitting Institute.

More information on the hearing can be found [here](#).

Executive order pulls back control from independent federal agencies

New executive action from President Donald Trump this week asserts more power over independent regulatory agencies operating within the executive branch of the federal government. The president said on Tuesday, February 18, said so-called independent agencies like the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) have exercised enormous power over the American people without presidential oversight. "In order to improve the administration of the executive branch and to increase regulatory officials' accountability to the American people, it shall be the policy of the executive branch to ensure Presidential supervision and control of the entire executive branch," said President Trump in his new directive. "Moreover, all executive departments and agencies, including so-called independent agencies, shall submit for review all proposed and final significant regulatory actions to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within the Executive Office of the President before publication in the Federal Register."

The executive action notably will also apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), an independent agency within the Department of Energy which regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil. The commission sets rates and charges for the transportation and sale of natural gas and the transportation of oil by pipelines, as well the valuation of such pipelines. FERC also reviews proposals to build liquefied natural gas terminals and interstate natural gas pipelines. Though previously shielded from direct presidential control, FERC regulators now will have to comply with President Trump's orders assuming sole authority agencies across the executive branch.



OUR TEXAS PRIDE RUNS DEEP

As a leading producer in the Permian Basin, Oxy applauds TIPRO's advocacy for Texas independent oil and natural gas producers, royalty owners and workers.

[Learn more at oxy.com](http://oxy.com)



Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association

With nearly 3,000 members, TIPRO is the nation's largest statewide association representing both independent producers and royalty owners. Our members include small family-owned companies, the largest publicly traded independents and large and small mineral estates and trusts.

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