

Texas congressman tells FBI director to protect the Permian Basin from oilfield theft

Texas
Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association

During a recent House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Capitol Hill, Texas Congressman Tony Gonzales (TX-23) urged Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel to maintain federal efforts focused on protecting the Permian Basin's resources, especially as the region continues to face rising reports of oilfield theft. While addressing Director Patel at a May 7th hearing of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science, Congressman Gonzales highlighted the importance of the Permian Basin Oil Theft Task Force, an FBI-led initiative, that has played a substantial role in combating oil theft in West Texas by supporting local law enforcement with the investigation of oilfield theft, gathering of intelligence

and providing other tools useful to addressing the increasing theft in the region.

"There's a part of my district, one of my counties [Reeves County], that produces more natural gas than anywhere else in the country...I want to highlight something for you that has worked... the Permian Basin Oil Theft Task Force. Oil theft in West Texas is a real deal...especially with the border crisis that we had to deal with over the last four years. That is a program, once again, without the FBI being at the core of providing the intelligence and the expertise, it's really difficult for some of these sheriffs and local municipalities to tackle these organized crimes. As you're working through the budget process...as you're working through what has to stick and what has to go, the Permian Basin Oil Theft Task Force is very important," emphasized Congressman Gonzales while addressing Director Patel during the legislative hearing.

Congressman Gonzales has been a strong advocate in D.C. for federal support protecting

Texas' energy industry and pushed for policies that are helping to combat oilfield theft in the state's energy basins. In the 118th Congress, he introduced the *Protect the Permian Act* in the U.S. House of Representatives. TIPRO worked directly with the congressman and his legislative staff on the act, which proposed an increase in criminal penalties for stealing, transporting and selling oil and oilfield-related equipment and would have expanded federal resources available to law enforcement agencies to target this type of criminal activity. Congressman Gonzales also last year hosted a roundtable in Monahans, Texas, with the FBI and regional law enforcement to discuss the rise in oilfield theft in West Texas.

U.S. Treasury targets cartel activity involving crude oil smuggling and fuel theft in Texas

U.S. officials recently issued an alert concerning crude oil smuggling schemes and fuel theft operations by Mexican cartels in Texas and along the U.S. southwest border. According to U.S. law enforcement authorities, cartels are using complicit Mexican brokers in the oil and natural gas industry to smuggle and sell crude oil stolen from Mexico's state-owned energy company, Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex), to



U.S.-based oil and natural gas companies operating near the U.S. southwest border, explained U.S. government leaders. Through these schemes, the cartels are stealing billions of dollars of crude oil from Pemex, fueling rampant violence and corruption across Mexico, and undercutting legitimate oil and natural gas companies in the United States.

To combat this criminal activity, achieve the elimination of the cartels and defend the U.S. homeland, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's (Treasury) Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) said earlier this month it is leveraging its authorities and resources to counter cartel illicit revenue streams. The Treasury's FinCEN has posted a new alert, available for TIPRO members to view here, to help financial institutions better detect, identify and prevent such crimes, and the U.S. Treasury Department also is applying new sanctions on a major Mexican cartel network, the Cartel Jalisco Nueva Generacion (CJNG), that has been involved in the fuel theft activity and crude oil smuggling.

"Fuel theft and crude oil smuggling are cash cows for CJNG's narco-terrorist enterprise, providing a lucrative revenue stream for the group and enabling it to wreak havoc in Mexico and the United States," said U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent. "Treasury, as part of the administration's whole-of-government effort, will continue to use all available tools to relentlessly target drug cartels and foreign terrorist organizations to Make America Safe Again."

TIPRO members can watch a video from Secretary Bessent <u>here</u> with additional remarks on the Treasury Department's action related to stopping the cartel's fuel theft and crude oil smuggling.

Chairman's message

TIPRO members,

With the end of the state's legislative session only a few weeks away, lawmakers are working hard at the Texas capitol in Austin to move bills and send legislation to the governor's desk to be signed into law. Before the start of May, the Texas Senate already had passed all of its top 40 priority bills over to the Texas House. Legislative proposals in the House chamber, meanwhile, have generally been slower to advance, and a range of issues remain unfinished with the end of session quickly approaching.

A number of important end-of-session deadlines passed this week, including a big deadline Thursday (May 15th) marking the last day for House members to give tentative approval to most bills or joint resolutions that began in the lower chamber. As a reminder, Sine Die (end of session) is coming up on Monday, June 2.

During these final weeks of session, TIPRO's team in Austin, of course, is continuing to closely track progress on those bills that could be impactful to our members, Texas energy producers and royalty owners in the Lone Star State.

T. Grant Johnson TIPRO has continued to regularly meet with state legislators and legislative staff on bills that are currently being discussed by House and Senate members in committees. In total, TIPRO has taken formal positions on over 90 pieces of legislation of the 258 bills the association is tracking of relevance to our industry. We will keep working diligently and hold additional legislative meetings on key bills until the session wraps.

The association is still making an active push to garner support in the Texas legislature for bills that are focused on oilfield theft prevention, including House Bill 48 by House Energy Resources Committee Chairman Drew Darby (R-San Angelo). Last week, TIPRO visited with the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice to discuss the legislation, which would create an organized oilfield theft prevention unit within the Texas Department of Public Safety. The bill won final approval by the Texas House on April 24 and was then assigned to the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice for further consideration. TIPRO pushed for a hearing for House Bill 48 in the committee, which was heard by the legislative panel earlier this week on Tuesday, May 13. TIPRO's president was in attendance to testify in support of the legislation and answer any questions from the committee regarding the bill. The Senate Committee on Criminal Justice voted unanimously to pass the bill out of committee, sending it to the full senate for a final vote.

Of note, another bill by Chairman Darby, <u>House Bill 49</u>, the produced water liability bill, was passed in the House on Saturday. The bill expands and clarifies indemnification protections for entities involved in the production, conveyance, and treatment of fluid oil and gas waste by revising state law relating to tort responsibility in order to offer clearer legal standards and promote innovative, sustainable use of waste. TIPRO is now starting our push for support of the bill in the legislature's upper chamber.

Some other bills TIPRO is watching that were recently passed by the Texas House include <u>House Bill 3334</u> by Representative Ken King (R-Canadian) amending requirements related to wildfire prevention at oil and gas wells; <u>House Bill 2686</u> by Representative Jay Dean requiring the registration of frac tanks; and <u>House Bill 3158</u> by Chairman Darby revising application fees for permits related to the disposal of oil and gas waste under the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

<u>House Joint Resolution 47</u>, by House Environmental Regulation Committee Chairman Brooks Landgraf creating a constitutional amendment for the Texas STRONG Fund, also cleared the House on Monday, May 12. The bill's enabling legislation, <u>House Bill 188</u>, meanwhile, still is needing to be approved by House representatives before it will be considered in the Senate. <u>House Joint Resolution 35</u> by House Transportation Chairman Tom Craddick creating the similar GROW Texas Fund has also passed out of the House. The enabling legislation, <u>House Bill 265</u>, is scheduled to be heard on the House calendar.

With all eyes on the statehouse in Austin these last weeks of the regular legislative session, members of TIPRO can be assured your TIPRO team is advocating for support of bills that address our association's priorities and fighting legislative proposals that could negatively impact our industry. Through our consistent advocacy efforts and strong collaboration with our members and partners, we expect many legislative victories this session. Regards,

T. Grant Johnson

Last chance to sign up for the May TIPRO/HPF/IPAA luncheon in Houston!

At the upcoming 'Leaders in Industry' joint luncheon hosted by the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), Houston Producers Forum and Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), oil and gas executive Matt Gallagher from <u>Greenlake Energy</u> will provide remarks, sharing his extensive expertise and insights into the energy sector and offering valuable perspectives on the future of the industry.

Before founding Greenlake Energy, Gallagher previously served as president and CEO of Parsley Energy. He joined Parsley Energy in 2010 to build the company's engineering department. He was named vice president and chief operating officer in 2014. In January 2017, Gallagher was then promoted to president and chief operating officer, before being named the company's chief executive officer in 2019. Prior to his time at Parsley, Gallagher spent five years at Pioneer Natural Resources in a variety of engineering and finance roles.



In 2021, Gallagher formed a new company, Greenlake Energy. He serves as the company's president and chief executive officer. Register to hear from Gallagher at the next 'Leaders' luncheon, happening May 20 in Houston, by clicking here.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 20, 2025

HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA

"Leaders in Industry" Luncheon.

For information, email
info@houstonproducersforum.org.

JUNE 17, 2025

HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA

"Leaders in Industry" Luncheon.
For information, email
info@houstonproducersforum.org.

JULY 15, 2025

HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA

"Leaders in Industry" Luncheon.
For information, email
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Railroad Commission opens public comment period for Chapter 4 and waste hauler forms

The Railroad Commission of Texas is currently accepting public comment on seven proposed new forms required to implement the newly adopted rules in 16 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 4, Subchapter A, relating to Oil & Gas Waste Management. In addition, the commission is also accepting public comment on amendments to the Waste Hauler Forms WH-1, WH-2 and WH-3. See more information about the proposed form revisions below:

- Form EP-1, Authorized Pit Registration (new), satisfies the requirements of §4.113(e) for registration of all authorized pits. Operators will submit the form by email or regular mail, and the data will be entered into an electronic database.
- Form EP-2, Schedule B Authorized Pit Financial Security Worksheet (new), provides the breakdown of how the operator determined the appropriate amount of financial security to file with the Commission pursuant to §4.115(c)(3).
- Form EP-3, Schedule B Authorized Pit Bond (new), is like the Surface Waste Management Commercial Facility Bond (CF-1) document. The Form EP-3 is specific to Schedule B Authorized Pits, whereas the CF-1 is for Commercial Facilities.
- Form EP-4, Schedule B Authorized Pit Letter of Credit (new), is like the Surface Waste Management Commercial Facility Letter of C redit (CF-2) document. The Form EP-4 is specific to Schedule B Authorized Pits, whereas the CF-2 is for Commercial Facilities.
- •Form EP-5, Application Overview (new), is designed to fulfill the requirements of §4.124(d) for applicants of permitted facilities and waste management units. Operators will provide a brief overview of the facility activities and waste management units contained in the application. The form will enable staff to quickly and efficiently receive the application, register it in the EPS database, and assign it to appropriate staff based on complexity.
- Form EP-9, Waste Profile (new), may be used to document waste characterization prior to transportation pursuant to §4.190(b)(1).
- Form EP-10, Waste Manifest (new), was designed to document the transportation of waste pursuant to §4.191.
- Form WH-1 (revised), Application for Oil and Gas Waste Hauler's Permit
- Form WH-2 (revised), Waste Hauler List of Vehicles
- Form WH-3 (revised), Oil and Gas Waste Hauler Authority to Use Approved Disposal/Injection System

Waste Hauler forms are being implemented in an electronic format in <u>LoneSTAR</u>, the agency's tracking and reporting system that allows for the online filing and tracking of regulatory Oil and Gas Division functions. The proposed revisions to these forms represent updates consistent with supporting data entry into the LoneSTAR system, said the Railroad Commission.

The proposed new and revised forms will be available for public comment until May 30, 2025. The forms and comment submission options can be found on the commission's website at www.rrc.texas.gov/forms/proposed-form-amendments/ under Oil & Gas Forms. After Oil & Gas Division staff reviews the comments and makes any necessary changes, commission staff then plans to present the forms to the Railroad Commissioners and will request final adoption of the forms.

Texas House passes bill providing legislative framework to bring more power to the Permian

The Texas House of Representatives has passed House Bill 2152, by State Representative Eddie Morales, which requires the Permian Basin Transmission Reliability Plan to be updated every five years. During the 88th Texas Legislative Session in 2023, lawmakers passed House Bill 5066 by Representative Geren, which created a specific statutory provision requiring the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to direct ERCOT to develop a one-time reliability plan for the Permian Basin region by January 30, 2024. The plan addressed growing concerns over insufficient transmission access in the Permian Basin and laid the groundwork for critical infrastructure upgrades and increased investment in transmission and distribution capacity. ERCOT evaluated the transmission facilities needed to serve the Permian Basin region based on the 2030 and 2038 load forecasts provided by the Transmission and Distribution Service Providers and filed the Permian Basin Reliability Plan on July 25, 2024. PUC commissioners approved the Permian Basin Reliability Plan this past September and, as TIPRO recently reported, state regulators last month approved plans outlined in the reliability report to bring extra high voltage transmission lines to West Texas and help the Permian Basin meet the region's rapidly growing power needs. State leaders, however, have argued the issue requires more attention, and have suggested building on the work that was done last session by requiring the Permian Basin Reliability Plan to be looked at every five years to ensure the grid's reliability and continue to foster Texas' energy dominance.

"Transmission demand is one of the most pressing issues Texas faces. With a growing population, our energy demand will continue to grow. I passed House Bill 2152 to require the Permian Basin Transmission Reliability Plan to be updated every five years to ensure we remain prepared to meet the needs of tomorrow," Representative Morales said.

This session, the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) has supported House Bill 2152, and its companion legislation, Senate Bill 391 filed by Texas Senator Kevin Sparks (R-Midland). "With load demand for the oil and natural gas industry already unmet and expected to increase significantly over the next decade, this plan will provide critical investment in transmission, related infrastructure, and capacity. A five-year review will help to ensure that we effectively address future demand and ever-changing market conditions in the Permian, the epicenter of oil and natural gas development," said TIPRO's President Ed Longanecker.

President Trump signs Senator Cruz's CRA resolution rescinding Biden appliance regulation

President Donald Trump on Friday, May 9th signed legislation authored by U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) that overturns a Biden Administration <u>rule</u> banning certain natural gas water heaters from the market. The Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) <u>supported</u> Senator Cruz's joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) striking down the regulation that was rushed through by the Biden Administration. If left in place, the rule would have increased costs and limited consumer choice for Americans.

"The Biden-Harris Administration knew they were increasing costs on American consumers and limiting consumers' ability to choose the heater that works best for them, but they didn't care. President Trump's signature will ensure this anti-consumer regulation is permanently revoked," commented Senator Cruz.

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Trump's Energy Department implements historic 47 deregulatory actions

On Monday, the U.S. Energy Department revealed plans for the largest deregulatory effort in the agency's history, proposing the elimination or reduction of 47 department regulations, which when finalized is expected to save the American people an estimated \$11 billion and cut more than 125,000 words from the Code of Federal Regulations. The action follows President Donald Trump's Executive Order, "Zero-Based Regulation to Unleash American Energy," and seeks to advance President Trump's promise to restore consumer freedom, lower costs, and unleash American energy dominance.

"While it would normally take years for the Department of Energy to remove just a handful of regulations, the Trump Administration assembled a team working around the clock to reduce costs and deliver results for the American people in just over 110 days," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright. "Thanks to President Trump's leadership, we are bringing back common sense -- slashing regulations meant to appease Green New Deal fantasies, restrict consumer choice and increase costs for the American people. Promises made, promises kept."

Some of the deregulatory efforts pursued by the Energy Department include:

- Streamlining administrative procedures with respect to the import and export of natural gas
- Rescinding reporting requirements, certification, independent verification, and department review for voluntary greenhouse gas reporting
- Rescinding the renewable energy production incentive
- Streamlining the procedures for acquisition of petroleum for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve
- Notice rescinding 10 unlawful and burdensome guidance documents

TIPRO members can see the full list of actions here.

The Energy Department's deregulatory push follows similar efforts already taken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In March, the EPA <u>announced</u> 31 historic actions to roll back trillions in regulatory costs and hidden "taxes," overhaul and cut duplicative and onerous federal rules and redirect resources to EPA's core mission to relieve the economy of unnecessary bureaucratic burdens.

Trump Administration initiates rulemaking to update outdated federal LNG regulations

The Trump Administration recently announced plans to rewrite federal rules governing liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities and develop new policies that will fast-track new LNG infrastructure projects, expand domestic export capacity and grow the U.S. LNG market. Officials from the U.S. Transportation Department's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) on April 29th issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) outlining amendments updating existing LNG regulations to better reflect more current industry operations and keep pace with the technological innovations utilized today by the LNG industry. It is the first of such ANPRMs in a series of priority PHMSA actions that will advance President's Trump's "Unleashing American Energy" executive order, said department leaders.

"President Trump charged the Department of Transportation with unleashing American energy so we can lower costs and grow the economy," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy. "Within 100 days, we're doing just that. PHMSA is laying the groundwork to revamp decades-old regulations and slash red tape to increase LNG exports, generate good-paying jobs, and allow the U.S. to safely send more of its natural resources around the world. Under this administration, America is building again."

The full text of the LNG facilities ANPRM is now available in the <u>Federal Register</u>. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments on the potential amendments to the regulations governing LNG. Comments on this ANPRM must be submitted by July 7, 2025.

USFWS asks judge to strike down its own ESA determination for the Lesser Prairie Chicken

In a new legal filing, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has asked the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas to pull the federal government's final rule listing the Lesser Prairie Chicken on the endangered species list, citing a "serious defect" in the 2022 listing for the bird that officials said should prompt full reconsideration of the species' status. The agency said in its legal motion that it had erred in establishing two distinct population segments with different protective status across the grassland bird's habitat in the southern Great Plains; therefore, the USFWS is seeking voluntary vacatur of the chicken's listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and wants the court to remand the listing back to the agency to update its determination.

"The service's confession that the [distinct population segment] policy was improperly applied amounts to a serious substantive defect because it calls into question the very foundation of the listing decision," states the motion.

Officials said that the policy misapplication necessitates an entirely new analysis on the Lesser Prairie Chicken species. USFWS anticipates publishing a new determination regarding the species' ESA status by November 30, 2026.

Registration now open for TIPRO's 2025 Summer Conference

Registration is now open for the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association's (TIPRO) 2025 Summer Conference, to be held on August 4-5. For the association's annual Summer meeting, TIPRO looks forward to returning to the beautiful Hyatt Hill Country Resort in San Antonio.

TIPRO's event will convene members of TIPRO, industry leaders, energy professionals, state officials and energy experts to discuss priorities facing the Texas oil and natural gas industry and highlight leading issues affecting energy producers and royalty owners in Texas.

Early bird registration for TIPRO's 2025 Summer Conference is available until June 30th – register now to take advantage of the special pricing and lowest conference rates.

More details on the TIPRO Summer Conference can be found on the <u>TIPRO website</u>. Stay tuned for more information on speakers, the conference agenda and networking events to be announced in the coming weeks.

Sign up online for the Summer Conference by clicking here or using the forms on the pages that follow.



TIPRO SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Using the form below, sign up for TIPRO's annual summer meeting, happening August 4-5, 2025, at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort & Spa in San Antonio. We look forward to seeing you there!

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MEMBER FEES: *FULL PASS INCLUDES ALL CONFERENCE SESSIONS AND		NON-MEMBER FEES: *FULL PASS INCLUDES ALL CONFERENCE SESSIONS AND MEALS, AS WELL AS A ONE-YEAR COMPLIMENTARY TIPRO MEMBERSHIP			
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☐ CHILDREN (12-UNDER): \$125		☐ CHILDREN (12-UNDER): \$125			
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Forms may also be emailed to <u>info@tipro.org</u>. Paying by credit card? Consider signing up online through TIPRO's easy-to-use and secure registration portal at <u>membership.tipro.org/TIPRO-2025-Summer-Conference!</u>

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- ★ Four complimentary all-access meeting passes to TIPRO's Summer Conference
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- ★ Company logo or name prominently displayed on event promotional materials and signage
- ★ Exclusive verbal recognition during the conference
- ★ Complimentary half-page ad in the event program
- ★ Complimentary half-page ad in TIPRO's newsletter

SILVER SPONSOR - \$5,000

- ★ Three complimentary meeting passes to TIPRO's Summer Conference
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- ★ Acknowledgement in the event program and complimentary quarter-page ad in TIPRO's newsletter

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TIPRO's Casino Night is a member favorite! Sign up to sponsor this fun evening, where members enjoy time to play classic games such as poker and black jack. Sponsorship includes:

- ★ One complimentary meeting pass to TIPRO's Summer Conference
- ★ Special recognition on one of the prize baskets awarded during TIPRO's Casino Night
- ★ Company logo or name included on other event marketing materials and conference signage
- ★ Acknowledgement in TIPRO's newsletter

HOSPITALITY SUITE SPONSOR* - \$3,000

TIPRO's hospitality suite is a special tradition that offers conference attendees a place to relax, convene informal discussions, spend time with TIPRO members and enjoy refreshments. This sponsorship includes:

- ★ One complimentary meeting pass to TIPRO's Summer Conference
- ★ Company logo or name included on other event marketing materials and conference signage
- ★ Acknowledgement in TIPRO's newsletter

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To confirm availability of sponsor packages or learn more about sponsorship of TIPRO's conference, please contact Joanne Reynolds at (512) 477-4452 or email joanne@tipro.org.



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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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