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Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association

TIPRO's president participates in first meeting of the State Task Force on Petroleum Theft

The newly-formed State Task Force on Petroleum Theft (STOPTheft) met in Austin for the first time at the end of October to talk about solutions aimed at deterring petroleum theft in the state of Texas, an ongoing problem which has significantly impacted oil and gas producers in more recent years. Members of the task force, who were announced last month by the Railroad Commission of Texas, represent key elements of state, federal and local law enforcement and the energy industry. Ed Longanecker, president of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), was among those appointed to serve on the advisory body, which is being led by Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Jim Wright.


Members of the State Petroleum Task Force meet in Austin. Photo courtesy of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

"Each of you were selected for the valuable expertise and insight you bring to this task force," Chairman Jim Wright said at the task force's first meeting. "Your work in the coming year and wealth of knowledge will play a pivotal role in protecting our precious Texas natural resources. I look forward to working together to accomplish the goals set forth under Senate Bill 494 and putting a STOP to oilfield theft."

Longanecker joined Chairman Wright and fellow task members last Wednesday, October 29, 2025, for the inaugural meeting of the STOPTheft task force held at Railroad Commission headquarters. During the meeting, the task force officially voted to approve the STOPTheft charter and reviewed the language of Senate Bill 494 that was passed into law by the state legislature earlier this year which established the new task force and set forth in statute its purpose and duties.

Other topics discussed at Wednesday's meeting of STOPTheft included strengthening collaboration between law enforcement and private operators, examining the impact of petroleum theft on state sales tax revenues, and determining how to identify and align existing theft data gathered by law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

A staggering 40 percent of oil and gas operators have indicated that their operations have been impacted by theft in the past year, reports the Railroad Commission citing data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, an increasingly sophisticated crime that has been linked to organized crime and foreign criminal syndicates, costing Texans millions of dollars in lost state revenue.

Under the leadership of Chairman Wright, the STOPTheft task force will continue to meet at least quarterly to develop strategic solutions and recommendations aimed at combating oilfield theft. The group will also review product theft laws and regulations in other U.S. jurisdictions as well as international laws; analyze the impact of theft on state tax collections and long-term economic impacts and prepare a report to submit to the governor and the legislature detailing recommendations on ways to further combat petroleum product theft.

Learn more about the new State Task Force on Petroleum Theft by clicking here. Members of TIPRO are encouraged to join TIPRO's oilfield theft task force, which was established last year during the legislative interim. This group of TIPRO members will be a valuable resource for the newly established task force via Senate Bill 494. Please email info@tipro.org for additional information.

Hear from Howard Energy Partners Chairman and CEO at the next TIPRO-HPF-IPAA luncheon


Mike Howard

There is still time to sign up for the final 'Leaders in Industry' luncheon of the year. The event, hosted by the Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) and Houston Producers Forum (HPF) at the Petroleum Club of Houston on Tuesday, November 18, will feature commentary from Howard Energy Partners (HEP) Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mike Howard.

Howard has over 30 years of energy experience. Under his leadership, HEP has grown into a diversified, multi-billion dollar midstream energy enterprise operating across four U.S. states and Mexico. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of HEP, Atlas Energy Solutions (NYSE: AESI) and Jonah Energy LLC.

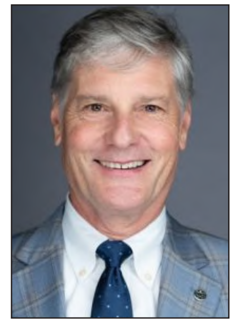
Prior to starting his company in 2011, Howard was an executive in publicly traded energy companies, including president of midstream for one of the largest pipeline companies in the U.S. Throughout his career, Howard has led high-performing teams in developing major energy infrastructure across multiple oil and gas basins.

Active in the community, Howard also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Foundation, the San Antonio Academy, the United Way of Bexar County, Energy Corps and many other civic organizations, including being co-founder of the South Texas Recovery Foundation.

Howard is passionate about providing greater access to reliable, affordable energy to global communities in need. His work demonstrates a deep commitment to expanding energy availability as a tool for economic empowerment and addressing energy poverty.

To sign up to hear from Howard at the November 18th TIPRO-HPF-IPAA luncheon, click here.

A Message from TIPRO's Chairman



T. Grant Johnson

Greetings, fellow TIPRO members,

Last week, TIPRO hosted a wonderful event in Fort Worth at the corporate headquarters of one of our generous members, U.S. Energy Development Corporation (USEDC). The company recently completed an impressive renovation of the historic Armour & Co. meatpacking plant. Jordan Jayson, chairman of the board and CEO of USEDC, and his team did an outstanding job revitalizing this landmark property near the famed Fort Worth Stockyards.

Our reception took place on the second-floor patio of the plant, overlooking the Stockyards District at sunset on a perfect October evening. We enjoyed a strong turnout, with many of our Fort Worth members and guests gathering to network, reconnect and share a beautiful fall evening together.

We were honored at the networking event to have Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) Chairman Jim Wright join us and provide an update on the commission's current activities. Chairman Wright reminded us how fortunate we are to operate in the most energy-friendly state in the country. He was accompanied by Wei Wang, the commission's executive director, Danny Sorrells, deputy executive director for the RRC and Oil and Gas Division director, and Charles Maguire, RRC project manager. It's not often that producers and royalty owners get the chance to visit with so many members of the commission's top leadership in such an intimate setting. Our sincere thanks to Chairman Wright, Director Wang, Deputy Executive Director Sorrells and Mr. Maquire for taking the time to be with us.

This evening would not have been possible without our generous sponsors, U.S. Energy Development Corporation, our platinum sponsor; and our gold sponsors: FBFK Law, Helmerich & Payne (H&P), Legacy Onshore, Sooner Pipe and Lone Star Production Company. TIPRO extends a heartfelt thank you to each of these valued supporters for making this gathering a success.

Later that night, as I reflected on the event from my hotel room, I thought about the many people I met and reconnected with. Those who know me understand how much I value networking opportunities like this. Industry gatherings are vital to our profession; they foster relationships, spark new ideas and strengthen the bonds that keep our industry thriving. Having the opportunity to discuss key issues directly with our state's regulatory leadership was invaluable, and putting faces to familiar names from recent phone calls was an added plus. I also enjoyed meeting with long-time colleagues and spending time with our friends at USEDC in their outstanding new headquarters.

If you missed this one, don't worry, there are plenty more chances to engage. TIPRO continues to host monthly luncheons in Houston in partnership with the Houston Producers Forum and IPAA, offering top-tier speakers and excellent networking opportunities. TIPRO will also plan additional regional events in the coming months.

And looking ahead, mark your calendars for our annual meeting and 80th Anniversary Celebration, taking place March 30 – 31, 2026, in Houston, the first time since 2018 that this flagship event returns to the Bayou City. We've selected the historic Hotel ZaZa in the Museum District to commemorate TIPRO's 80 years of service to the industry. The hotel, originally opened in 1926 during Houston's oil boom, remains a true landmark and is a fitting venue for this milestone celebration. This will be a memorable event filled with education, networking, and camaraderie.

Until our next gathering, please know that TIPRO remains active on several important fronts, including the State Task Force on Petroleum Theft, interim Texas legislative hearings, and ongoing participation in Senate Bill 1150 (Inactive Well) rulemaking discussions. Please contact TIPRO's President Ed Longanecker or TIPRO's Director of State Government and Regulatory Affairs Ryan Paylor for additional information.

Thank you for your continued support -

T. Grant Johnson

State natural gas tax revenue jumps 26 percent compared with October 2024

Tax contributions by the state's oil and natural gas industry remain high, new data published from the state comptroller's office shows, despite softening market conditions for the E&P sectors. Texas energy producers in October paid $228 million in state natural gas production taxes, up from the $182 million that was collected through this tax revenue stream a year ago, reported the comptroller. In October, producers also paid $405 million in oil production taxes, down slightly from last October when oil production tax revenue totaled $436 million.

Oil and gas tax revenue offers critical funding for key state programs, including public education, state roads and highways, first responders and other important public services.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 18, 2025	JANUARY 20, 2026	FEBRUARY 17, 2026
HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.	HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.	HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.

Railroad Commission announces new listening sessions on topics related to regulatory oversight

The Railroad Commission of Texas recently announced it plans to hold a series of virtual Listening Sessions that will provide the public with additional opportunities to learn about the commission and share their perspectives on the agency's regulatory oversight. Residents from across Texas are encouraged to participate in the commission's Listening Sessions, ask questions and express their opinions. The inaugural session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, said the commission, from noon to 1:30 p.m. CST. It will be held on Microsoft Teams – to register for the session, use the following link: https://tinyurl.com/4fwnxmr5.

"The remote Listening Sessions are an important opportunity for Texans to speak directly with us," said Railroad Commission Executive Director Wei Wang. "We want to better understand the perspectives of those we serve, and these conversations help us listen, learn and lead with the best interest of Texans in mind."

The sessions will take place virtually every other month, advised the commission, and will feature a brief overview of the Railroad Commission's regulatory functions followed by time for participants to provide comments and ask questions during a brief Q&A session with subject matter experts from the agency. Registration is required for participation and commenting.

For more information on the Listening Sessions, please visit: https://www.rrc.texas.gov/public-engagement/listening-sessions-faq/ or email Scott Sroufe, director of the Railroad Commission's Office of Public Engagement, at Scott.Sroufe@rrc.texas.gov.

Railroad Commission adopts forms to support the implementation of Chapter 4 rulemaking

During the Texas Railroad Commission's open meeting last week, commissioners voted to adopt the recently revised Chapter 4 Forms: EP-1 – Authorized Pit Registration Form, EP-2 - Authorized Pit Financial Security Worksheet, EP-5 - Application for a Permit for Surface Management of Oil & Gas Waste, EP-5 Worksheet, EP-9 – Waste Profile Form, and EP-10 – Waste Manifest. The forms can be found here. Thank you to the TIPRO members that engaged with TIPRO on this issue and provided valuable feedback to better the commission's forms.

Texas passes Proposition 4, helping secure funding to support the state's water future

Texas will proceed with plans to make its largest-ever investment in water supply in the state's history, after voters approved Proposition 4 on the state ballot on election day. The constitutional amendment, which was first passed by the state legislature as House Joint Resolution 7 earlier this year during the legislative session, was widely supported by state leadership, as well as industry, water sector and environmental groups.

The proposition allows the state to redirect a portion of existing state sales tax revenue — up to $1 billion annually — into the Texas Water Fund each year, starting in 2027, to help finance water, wastewater and flood infrastructure projects. It does not increase taxes or fees on Texans. The approach is similar to a mechanism that voters approved for highways through Proposition 7 in 2015.

To learn more about Prop 4, visit www.texaswater.org/prop-4 and for more information on the Texas Water Fund, go to https://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/twf/index.asp.

Fifth Texas Energy Fund loan approved for natural gas generation facility in the Permian Basin

Competitive Power Ventures (CPV) Basin Ranch has been approved to receive a Texas Energy Fund (TxEF) loan to build a 1,350-megawatt combined-cycle natural gas power plant in the Permian Basin, Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced at the end of October. The facility has the largest capacity of any project financed by the TxEF to date. The project will immediately transition to construction, said company leaders, with operations expected to start in 2029. Once connected, the CPV Basin Ranch Energy Center will become one of the largest sources of dispatchable generation capacity for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) grid. It will be capable of powering the equivalent of 850,000 West Texas homes.

"We thank Governor Greg Abbott, his administration, the Texas Legislature, the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC), and Ward County for their continued support of the CPV Basin Ranch Energy Center that will provide critical baseload power to the citizens of Texas," said Competitive Power Ventures CEO Sherman Knight. "Through incentives and available natural resources, Texas is paving the way for new investments and development across the state; CPV looks forward to playing a role in that future."

With access to the multiple natural gas supply sources of Coterra, Devon, and Diamondback, CPV Basin Ranch will be able to maintain consistent performance during extreme weather and other critical events, helping to stabilize the ERCOT grid when it is needed most, CPV also noted.

"The Texas Energy Fund secured the largest capacity project to date, with 1,350 MW of new, reliable power generation coming online that will further fortify our state grid and support our growing economy for decades," said Governor Abbott. "As one of the largest sources of dispatchable power generation for the grid, this investment is just the latest example of why Texas is the energy capital of the world. We will take every step necessary to ensure affordability and electric reliability for Texas homes and businesses across our great state."

"The Texas Energy Fund has now financed the addition of over 3,100 MW of new, reliable power for the State of Texas," said PUC Chairman Thomas Gleeson. "There is important work still ahead, but this newest commitment to invest in Texas is a clear demonstration of the value and reliability benefits the TxEF is bringing to bear."

There are now 12 TxEF In-ERCOT Generation Loan Program applications moving through a due diligence review process. Together, the projects represent 5,861 MW of proposed, new dispatchable generation for the ERCOT grid.

Texas House Energy Resources chairman calls on Congress to act on permitting reforms

Texas State Representative Drew Darby (R-San Angelo), who became chairman of the Texas House Energy Resources Committee earlier this year, recently called on members of Congress to take action on permitting reform and fix the nation's permitting process. Pointing to major obstacles from slow infrastructure permitting, the chairman asked federal lawmakers to act on the issue in a new editorial.

"We lead the nation in crude oil and natural gas production, wind generation and refining capacity — with our 35 refineries accounting for roughly one-third of U.S. petroleum output. Texans understand energy, and we know what it takes to deliver it reliably and at scale," Chairman Darby wrote in his op-ed. "Red tape, bureaucratic inefficiencies and outdated laws have turned the system into a maze of delays and uncertainty. The truth is if Congress does not act soon, America will fall behind in energy production, manufacturing and the infrastructure needed to power our future."

He continued, "As chairman of the Texas House Committee on Energy Resources, I hear regularly from companies ready to invest billions in new energy projects from oil and gas development to data centers and renewable energy infrastructure. These projects face years of environmental reviews, redundant oversight and costly litigation. To make matters worse, electricity demand is projected to rise by as much as 25 percent by 2030 while experts warn that without action, power outages could increase by 100 times in that same period. We cannot afford that kind of regulatory paralysis. Congress must take bold action now."

Read Chairman Darby's full editorial at https://tinyurl.com/45h4bamd.

SM Energy and Civitas announce $12.8 billion merger

In a new merger announced Monday, TIPRO member SM Energy said it will combine with Civitas Resources to form one of the largest independent oil producers in the country, in a deal valued at $12.8 billion. After the merger between the two shale players is completed, which is expected in the first quarter of 2026, the new company will hold roughly 823,000 net acres, and the Permian Basin will be the business' "cornerstone" focus, company leaders said.

"This merger combines two premier operators and establishes a company with transformative scale in the highest-return U.S. shale basins," said SM Energy President and Chief Operating Officer Beth McDonald. "By combining two complementary portfolios, we expect to unlock significant free cash flow to strengthen our balance sheet, accelerate stockholder returns, and position us for sustainable growth through every cycle."

"Today marks a pivotal moment for Civitas and SM Energy as we announce a merger that unlocks new potential to deliver enhanced stockholder value and achieve outcomes beyond the reach of either company alone. By combining our strong technical teams and complementary assets, we gain scale, sharpen our competitive edge, and strengthen our ability to responsibly produce energy that contributes to energy security and prosperity," commented Civitas Interim Chief Executive Officer Wouter van Kempen. "This merger positions us to lead with operational and environmental excellence, generate meaningful synergies, and accelerate value creation."

Following the merger, current SM Energy Chief Executive Officer Herb Vogel will serve as chief executive officer of the combined company, and the previously announced expected CEO transition to Beth McDonald remains on-track.

The merger between Civitas and SM Energy is the biggest U.S. oil and gas acquisition since the beginning of April, as oil and gas M&A activity has generally slowed in the second and third quarters of the year. Persistently low crude prices have kept many buyers from pursuing shale M&A opportunities, slowing the pace of dealmaking.

TIPRO alert: OOOOb reporting extensions

For all members that requested and received extensions under Subpart OOOOb in August, those 90-day extensions are approaching expiration. Companies will need to request another extension from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Please provide your own reason for requesting an additional extension.

The specific Subpart OOOOb provision requiring the extension is:

- Filing the initial annual report under the Standards of Performance for Crude Oil and Natural Gas Facilities for Which Construction, Modification or Reconstruction Commenced After December 6, 2022, 40 CFR part 60, subpart OOOOb (89 FR 16820, March 8, 2024).

Send the request to the same parties contacted previously.

SAVE THE DATE

80 Years

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

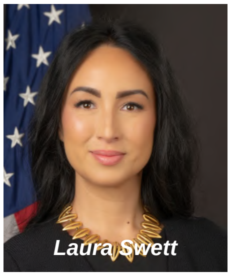


Date
March 30 - 31, 2026

Location:
Hotel ZaZa,
Houston Museum District

At TIPRO's 80th Annual Convention next Spring, the association will return to Houston, the energy capitol of the world, to celebrate TIPRO's 80th anniversary. Mark your calendar for this milestone event and watch for more details to be announced in the coming weeks!

President Trump designates Laura Swett as the new chairman of FERC



Newly sworn-in Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner (FERC) Laura Swett has been named head of the agency by President Donald Trump. The leadership change was announced by FERC on October 23, 2025. As the new chair of FERC, Swett replaces Commissioner David Rosner, a Democrat who briefly led FERC following the departure of Republican Mark Christie, the previous FERC chairman, in August.

"I am honored to serve as chairman of FERC and grateful for President Trump's confidence in me to advance America's energy priorities at such a critical moment in our nation's history," Chairman Swett said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues and FERC's excellent staff to continue the commission's crucial mission of ensuring reliable and affordable energy for all consumers."

Chairman Swett was nominated by President Trump to FERC in June, though her confirmation to the commission took months to progress as partisan battles led Democrats to significantly delay or block action on the confirmation of executive nominations made by the president. Swett was confirmed by the Senate on October 7, 2025, to serve on the commission for a term expiring on June 30, 2030. Chairman Swett has litigated FERC law for the past 15 years, which has included representation of generating utilities, transmission owners, and natural gas and liquids pipelines, most recently at Vinson & Elkins. Additionally, she previously served at FERC, advising a former Chairman and Commissioner, and as a lead attorney in FERC's Office of Enforcement.

Cruz-led legislation seeks to expedite exports of U.S. LNG

Legislation led by U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas), chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, is aiming to expedite the federal approval process for exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG). The senator's bill, called the Natural Gas Export Expansion Act, was introduced on October 27, 2025. U.S. Representative Michael Cloud (R-Texas-27) has filed the companion legislation in the U.S. House.

"Increasing U.S. energy exports is good for America, and there is no bigger energy producer than the state of Texas. My legislation expedites permits for LNG exporters to ensure that Texas-produced gas can be sent to our allies around the world. It will enhance American energy dominance, create jobs, and drive investment. I call on my colleagues to pass this legislation expeditiously," said Senator Cruz.

"The current approval process for our LNG exports is burdened with bureaucratic red tape that puts American energy independence and dominance at risk," explained Representative Cloud. "The Natural Gas Expansion Act eliminates regulatory hurdles, which will secure our energy, trade, and job markets, regardless of any change in the executive. I appreciate the opportunity to work with Senator Cruz in advancing this important legislation for American Energy."

Specifically, the Natural Gas Export Expansion Act:

- Ensures applications to export LNG to certain non-free trade countries are treated the same as free trade countries and "deemed to be consistent with the public interest."
- Removes red tape to deliver LNG to some of America's biggest customers, such as the European Union.
- Excludes nations subject to U.S. sanctions, including regimes like North Korea.

The proposed legislation also would prevent future administrations from arbitrarily pausing LNG export permits, as the Biden White House did in 2024 before the Trump Administration ended the federal LNG pause in January.

TIPRO members can read the bill text here.

U.S. government shutdown drags on

As of November 6, the United States federal government shutdown has stretched into its 37th day, surpassing a record set by the 2018-2019 impasse for the longest in U.S. history, with lawmakers deadlocked over funding disputes amid partisan recriminations. The Senate's procedural votes on a House-passed stopgap funding bill have continued to fail. Impacts are mounting: over 800,000 federal workers remain furloughed or unpaid, SNAP benefits for millions of low-income families are at risk of interruption by mid-November, air traffic delays are worsening, and economic data blackouts are complicating Federal Reserve decisions. President Trump met with Senate Republicans this week at the White House, amid warnings from Treasury officials that the standoff risks broader economic fallout.

Lawmakers from both parties are scrambling for an off-ramp, but progress remains elusive after the Senate's 14th failed vote on a funding bill this week. Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) has reiterated GOP support for a clean CR but insists on agency cuts under incoming budget director Russ Vought, while Trump has signaled willingness to "close up" certain programs during the impasse. Business leaders and prediction markets (e.g., Polymarket at 19 percent odds for resolution by November 15th) warn that holiday-season disruptions could force a breakthrough around Thanksgiving, but experts predict the shutdown could drag into December if far-left Democrats block any concessions.

As communicated previously, TIPRO was contacted by the special assistant to the president, deputy director of the Office of Public Liaison, for a comment on passing a clean Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act extending government funding at current levels. TIPRO's President Ed Longanecker provided the following statement:

> "President Trump's emergency order will insulate the energy industry from some impacts in the short-term, but even with that, a prolonged government shutdown risks undermining the broader energy ecosystem critical to our nation's energy security. That's why the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) is urgently calling on the U.S. Senate to pass a clean Continuing Resolution (CR) today to reopen the government and ensure we can continue to provide affordable, reliable energy."

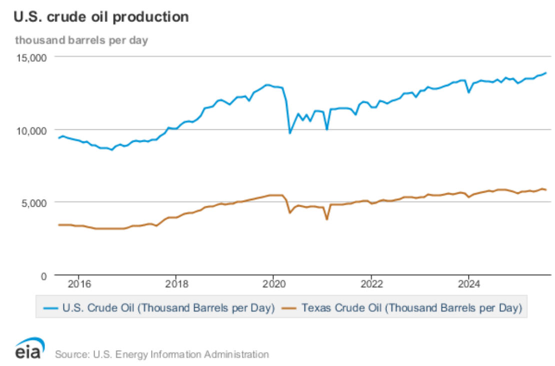
The official White House government shutdown page, which includes statements from hundreds of organizations, including TIPRO, API, AGA and AXPC, as well as data on the economic impact of the federal shutdown, can be found here.

U.S. crude oil and natural gas production broke another monthly record in August

U.S. crude oil production topped a record-setting 13.8 million barrels per day (bpd) in August, up 86,000 barrels per day from the previous record set in July, data published Friday by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed. The new record continues a streak seen in recent months of sustained growth in domestic oil output.

Crude oil production volumes from Texas, the largest oil producing state, dipped slightly in August to 5.840 million bpd, the EIA noted, down from 5.849 million bpd reached in July.

According to the EIA, U.S. gross natural gas production from the Lower 48 states also rose to a new record, topping 122.8 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d) in August, up from the prior all-time high hit in July of 122.1 bcf/d. Natural gas production in the state of Texas also saw an increase in August to a new all-time high of 37.975 bcf/d, 1.2 percent higher than July production amounts.



Diamondback Energy partners with Midland College on Permian technician training program

Diamondback Energy, an Explorer member of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO), has partnered with Midland College to launch a new mentorship program that will support students by connecting industry professionals directly to classroom experiences.


Diamondback Energy CEO Kaes Van't Hof speaks during an event at Diamondback Energy headquarters announcing the company's new mentorship training program offered at Midland College. Photo Courtesy of Diamondback Energy

The program aims to increase the number of credentialed Instrumentation & Electrical (I&E) technicians working in the Permian Basin. Technicians fulfill a critical oil and gas industry role to ensure safe and efficient operation of complex equipment and control systems. The new mentorship initiative will support more than 160 students enrolled in classes focusing on electrical systems, mechanical systems, and petroleum industry fundamentals. Once a month, mentors from Diamondback will join students to support hands-on lab projects and demonstrate course material.

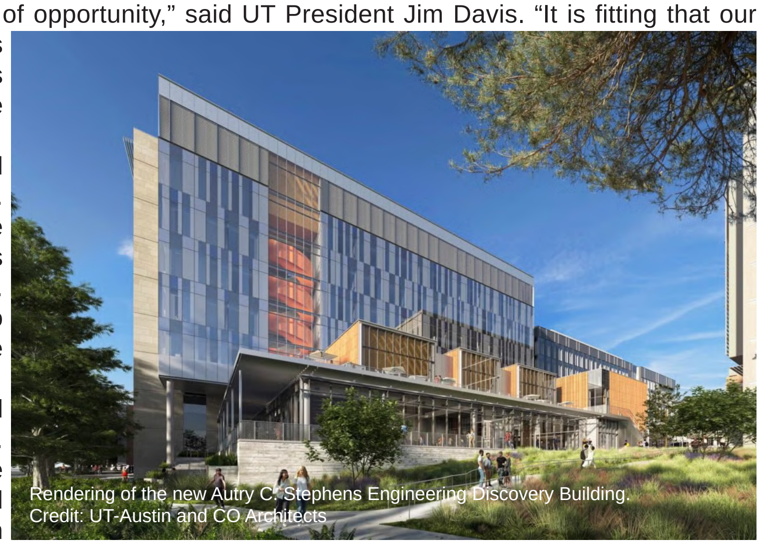
"We are excited about this partnership with Midland College to provide valuable career knowledge to students," said Diamondback Chief Executive Officer Kaes Van't Hof. "At Diamondback, we are committed to addressing gaps in education and fostering growth by dedicating time and resources to developing the next generation of oil and gas workers."

"Having I&E professionals in the classroom not only enhances the real-world application of concepts but also provides students with invaluable mentorship and career guidance from the Diamondback team," added Midland College President Damon Kennedy.

UT engineering building named after Texas oil and gas pioneer Autrey Stephens

The University of Texas at Austin (UT) will name its new engineering department tower in honor of Autry C. Stephens, a renowned oil and gas pioneer and UT alumnus, the university announced this week. The 210,000-square-foot facility, which is expected to open next year, will become the home of the Cockrell School of Engineering's Hildebrand Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering and McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering, said school leaders.

"One of the greatest gifts our University can receive is the gift of opportunity," said UT President Jim Davis. "It is fitting that our Engineering Discovery Building will bear Autry C. Stephens' name as both a pioneer and a creator of opportunity for countless UT students to study in a world-class facility and follow his daring path to change the world in their own way."


Rendering of the new Autry C. Stephens Engineering Discovery Building. Credit: UT-Austin and CO Architects

Stephens attended UT-Austin in the early 1960s where he earned a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering and a master's degree. After starting his career in the oil and gas industry working for Humble Oil (now part of Exxon Mobil Corp.) and becoming an oil and gas appraiser, he founded his own company, Endeavor Energy Resources. Shortly before his death last year, Stephens sold Endeavor to another Midland-based company, Diamondback Energy, creating the third-largest oil and gas producer in the region.

"This is a transformational moment for Texas Engineering," said Roger Bonnecaze, dean of the Cockrell School of Engineering. "The Autry C. Stephens Engineering Discovery Building ensures we have facilities that match the world-class talent of our faculty and students. The resources and spaces will educate the next generation of engineers who will follow in Autry's footsteps. When we would meet, he was always curious about our global reach. His contributions to the energy sector and commitment to innovation have changed the world and align perfectly with the mission of the Cockrell School."

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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