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THE TIPRO TARGET

TIPRO

Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association

Bill filing begins for Texas' 90th Regular Legislative Session

Texas lawmakers are wasting no time setting their policy agendas for the upcoming 90th Regular Legislative Session, already filing more than 1,600 bills and resolutions since prefiling officially opened last Monday, November 9, 2026. This surge of early legislative activity signals a busy session ahead under the state's capitol dome in Austin, with numerous legislative proposals filed for the next session directly tied to energy development, infrastructure investment and regulatory oversight across the Lone Star State.

Among the most prominent early measures affecting the oil and natural gas industry is a comprehensive legislative package authored by State Representative Brooks Landgraf (R-Odessa). Leading his proposals is House Joint Resolution (HJR) 48, which would ask Texas voters in November 2027 to approve a constitutional amendment that protects the right to engage in the exploration for and production and export of oil, natural gas and other minerals. Under this proposed constitutional amendment, state agencies and local political subdivisions could only regulate those mineral activities when clear and convincing evidence demonstrates that a rule is necessary to protect public health and safety from imminent danger or to conserve natural resources.



Representative Landgraf also has refiled his signature oil and gas infrastructure and community reinvestment framework through HJR 46 and its enabling legislation, House Bill 691. HJR 46 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas severance tax revenue and oil and natural gas (Texas STRONG) defense fund, dedicating general revenue funding to benefit communities heavily impacted by oil and gas production, alongside directed transfers for state highway funding, air quality initiatives, Railroad Commission of Texas regulatory operations and property tax relief. Complementing the constitutional resolution, House Bill 691 outlines the operational mechanics of the fund, distributing targeted grants for transportation infrastructure and economic development to counties that generate at least 0.5 percent of the state's oil and gas severance tax collections, as well as counties home to ports involved in petroleum production, refining or export.

Also of note, Senate Bill 264 by Senator Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) proposes new statutory notice and transparency requirements governing inactive oil and gas wells. Amending Section 89.026 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, this bill would require operators to notify both the applicable Railroad Commission district office and the surface estate owner at least three days before conducting a fluid level or hydraulic pressure test on an inactive well. The legislation prohibits operators from conducting the test without district office approval, grants surface landowners or their representatives the explicit right to witness the testing in person and mandates that operators share the results of any unsuccessful or failed test directly with the surface owner.

Other bills that have been pre-filed by state legislators for the 2027 session focus on tightening regulations on data center development in Texas, reining in property taxes and protecting Texas' water resources.

Bill prefiling will continue through mid-March, while the 90th Texas Legislature will officially convene on Tuesday, January 12, 2027.

With bipartisan support, Rep. Senfronia Thompson poised to become the next House speaker


Rep. Thompson

After Democrats won control of the Texas House in the November 2026 state elections, the Texas House of Representatives will see new leadership come January, when the 90th Texas Legislative begins. State Representative Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston) earlier this month announced her candidacy for speaker of the House, saying she has secured pledges from a majority of House members for the position. If elected when the new legislature convenes, Thompson will become the first female and first African American speaker to lead the Texas House of Representatives.

First elected in 1972 (taking office in 1973), Thompson is the longest-serving woman and African American lawmaker in Texas history, as well as the "Dean" of the House. A Houston attorney and award-winning legislator, Thompson has been the vice-chair of the House Committee on Licensing & Administrative Procedures and a member of the House Committee on State Affairs for the 89th Texas Legislature. She was also re-appointed to the Energy Council that facilitates cooperation in national energy policy matters among the energy-producing states of the Southwest.

Last week, Thompson named her transition team as she prepares to become speaker and presiding officer of the Texas House of Representatives. Her supporting transition team includes six former House speakers: Dade Phelan, Joe Straus, Dennis Bonnen, Ben Barnes, Gib Lewis and Pete Laney. As with other incoming Democratic state leaders, Thompson has vowed bipartisanship and cross-party cooperation during the next legislative session to advance meaningful policies benefiting all Texans.

A message from TIPRO's chairman



Thomas Janiszewski

TIPRO members,

For 80 years, TIPRO has worked with every governor, legislature, Congress and president, through periods of Democratic and Republican control at every level of government. TIPRO was founded in 1946 by 39 independent wildcatters to preserve the ability of independent producers and royalty owners to explore for and produce oil and natural gas. Our membership has grown significantly since then, but our commitment to that mission has never wavered.

Democrats held a majority in the Texas House for the first 56 years of TIPRO's history, until Republicans won a majority in the 2002 election and Tom Craddick of Midland became House speaker in January 2003. The Texas Senate had a Democratic majority until 1997. Democrats held the governor's office until Bill Clements took office in 1979, and Mark White and Ann Richards served between Republican terms in the 1980s and early 1990s. Republicans have held the governor's office since 1995 and until this election no Democrat had won statewide office since 1994. Democrats also won the Texas House back for the first time in more than two decades, while Republicans kept the Senate.

The parties have changed over these decades, and so have their priorities. In TIPRO's early years, Texas Democrats were largely conservative, and several of them, including John Connally, Phil Gramm and Rick Perry, later joined the Republican Party as the national parties realigned. Today, each party brings a different agenda to Austin and Washington, on issues from health care and wages to data centers and energy costs. What has not changed is the importance of the Texas oil and gas industry, which has been central to the state under Democratic and Republican majorities alike and has grown in importance to the nation's energy security.

After the November 3rd election, TIPRO and our members will work with the new governor, the new railroad commissioner, the legislature and the new Congress. The 90th Legislature convenes January 12, and bill filing began November 9. TIPRO is already analyzing and tracking bills of relevance to our industry. In Washington, divided government means major legislation will need support from both parties. On November 9, the U.S. Senate voted 73 to 25 to advance the *Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act*, a comprehensive permitting reform package, and the House must also act on it before this Congress ends.

Policymakers need to hear from our members. Members should meet with their legislators, file comments with agencies and join TIPRO's State Issues Committee, which will meet on the same day every week throughout the legislative session. TIPRO's team will send detailed updates by email on legislation that could affect our industry, including its status, TIPRO's position and our strategy to ensure sound energy policy prevails. Members are also encouraged to attend TIPRO's 81st Annual Convention on February 22 - 24 at the Otis Hotel in Austin, where they will meet with legislators and agency leaders while the session is underway.

Texas depends on this industry for energy, state revenue and royalty income. Severance taxes paid by producers help fund the state's Economic Stabilization Fund and the State Highway Fund, and royalties from state lands support the Permanent School Fund. Oil and natural gas also supply the fuel, electricity and petrochemical feedstocks that Texas households and businesses use every day.

TIPRO will provide the governor, the legislature, the Railroad Commission and Congress with data and analysis on how proposed policies affect Texas oil and gas production and the state revenue it generates. Our effectiveness depends on the participation of our members, and I encourage each of you to take part in this process.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Janiszewski

Chairman, TIPRO Board of Directors

Reminder: EPA still accepting public comments on revised OOOOb/c regulations

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last month unveiled its proposed reconsideration of the 2024 New Source Performance Standards and Emissions Guidelines for oil and natural gas operations, commonly known as OOOOb/c. The EPA's proposal eases certain oil and natural gas emissions rules implemented by the Biden Administration, provides substantial regulatory relief and is estimated to save $45 billion in costs to consumers and businesses, including families and small businesses operating marginal wells. EPA officials also project the regulatory changes will unleash an estimated 210 million additional barrels of oil and 1.41 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

EPA will take written comment on its regulatory proposal until Wednesday, December 16, 2026. TIPRO members can submit comments here.

Virtual public hearings were held by the EPA on Monday and Tuesday of this week regarding the agency's proposal, giving the public the opportunity to share oral testimony and present comments and information on the proposed rulemaking. A recording of these hearings can be viewed here. The regulatory package is expected to be finalized by the EPA in the first few months of the new year.

TIPRO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 19, 2027	FEBRUARY 3-5, 2027	FEBRUARY 22-24, 2027
HOUSTON — TIPRO/HPF/IPAA "Leaders in Industry" Luncheon. For information, email info@houstonproducersforum.org.	HOUSTON — 2027 NAPE Summit. For information, email info@NAPEexpo.com.	AUSTIN — TIPRO's 81st Annual Convention. For information, email info@tipro.org.

Railroad Commission sets public hearing on proposed SB 1150 rule amendments

On Friday, November 20, the Railroad Commission of Texas will host a hybrid public hearing regarding proposed amendments to 16 TAC §§ 3.15 and 3.58 to implement Senate Bill 1150, 89th Texas Legislature (Regular Session, 2025). The proposed amendments would revise existing rules on Surface Equipment Removal Requirements and Inactive Wells, and on Certificate of Compliance and Transportation Authority; Operator Reports.

Stakeholders can participate in the hearing in person at the Railroad Commission's Austin headquarters in Room 1.111 of the William B. Travis State Office Building located at 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701, or join the hearing virtually via Zoom. Individuals planning to attend in person and provide verbal comments may register to speak upon arrival, while those participating virtually must register by 5 p.m. today, Thursday, November 19, if they wish to speak. Participants attending in person will be asked to provide comments first, followed by those attending remotely.

Individuals who wish to view the hearing but do not intend to speak can watch the event online at https://adminmonitor.com/tx/rrc/.

The Railroad Commission's public comment period for the proposed amendments ends at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 20. TIPRO submitted extensive comments on Wednesday, November 18, which should soon be reflected on the commission's comments received page. To submit your own comments, use the online comment form available on the Railroad Commission's website here.

Under statute, the commission is required to adopt the implementing rules by December 31, 2026. Those rules, and the amended plugging requirement in Natural Resources Code section 89.023, take effect September 1, 2027.

Railroad Commission says its restoring the agency's original public comment policy

Following public pushback and even criticism from state legislative leaders, the Railroad Commission of Texas has confirmed it will be restoring its original Public Engagement and Participation Policy at next month's open meeting, returning a standing general public input agenda item to all regular open meetings hosted by the agency. In August, Railroad Commissioners Wayne Christian and Jim Wright voted 2–1, with Commission Chairman Christi Craddick dissenting, to revise the policy and remove the guaranteed general public comment period from the commission's monthly open meetings, instead shifting general public input towards other engagement opportunities and forums, including the commission's expanded listening sessions hosted each month by the Office of Public Engagement.

The commission's decision to remove its standalone comment period was met with concerns, including alarm from House Energy Resources Chairman Drew Darby (R-San Angelo), who requested Commissioner Christian testify on the new policy at a legislative hearing. When the commissioner was unable to appear before the Energy Resources Committee at a September hearing due to scheduling conflicts, Chairman Darby vowed to schedule another hearing to cover the public comment policy change with Commissioner Christian.

In a new letter sent on November 10th to Chairman Darby, Commissioner Christian informed Chairman Darby the commission's public participation policy will be restored to the original process at the Railroad Commission's December 15th meeting.

"At the December open meeting, the Railroad Commission's public participation policy will be revised to restore the process that existed prior to August. Going forward, every regular open meeting will include a standing agenda item allowing for general public input on matters within the commission's jurisdiction that have not been specifically posted for consideration at that meeting," Commissioner Christian wrote.

As a result, Chairman Darby has confirmed that the House Committee on Energy Resources no longer will convene another oversight hearing related to this topic. The chairman still encouraged the Railroad Commission to continue protecting public access and input. "What we do, and what we leave behind, will make an impact. The Railroad Commission is a renowned agency that serves a world-class state. I am sure you will agree that the people of Texas deserve a world-class public engagement policy," expressed Chairman Darby in a letter directed to Commissioner Christian.

Railroad Commissioner-elect Jon Rosenthal lays out his priorities for state's oil and gas agency

Speaking at a press conference in Midland last Friday, incoming Railroad Commissioner Jon Rosenthal detailed his top goals for the state agency once he joins the three-member panel at the commission. At the top of the list, said Rosenthal, will be doubling the Railroad Commission's half-billion-dollar budget so the agency has more funding to better serve Texans. "My first priority is to lobby the legislature to get increased funding for the Railroad Commission," he explained. "My push is to double the agency's budget." Rosenthal noted his unique position to leverage his Democratic party affiliation to hopefully convince past colleagues in the House to allocate more funding for the Railroad Commission, which could be especially impactful with a Democratic majority in the legislature's lower chamber.



Once he is a commissioner, Rosenthal said he also hopes to partner with industry to incentivize responsible operators and help small and medium-sized producers increase production and adhere to existing rules and statutes. Other priorities for the Railroad Commission that Rosenthal highlighted include:

- Streamline permitting for responsible operators so it is faster and less expensive for them
- Further "turbo-charge" well-plugging operations to reduce the massive backlog of orphaned wells
- Increase pay for commission personnel to be competitive to hire and retain quality talent
- Increase domestic production to lower energy costs and help insulate the United States from global impacts

The commissioner-elect, the first Democrat elected to the role in more than three decades, said he would be meeting through the week with Railroad Commission Chairman Christi Craddick, Commissioner Jim Wright and Commissioner Wayne Christian, as well as expected to meet with the governor-elect, lieutenant governor-elect and legislative leaders in both chambers as he prepares to take his seat at the Railroad Commission in January. "We have a golden opportunity right now to transform the Railroad Commission into a more effective and transparent agency that responsibly manages our resources and keeps our economy strong. Let's get to work!" stated Rosenthal.

Railroad Commission updating its cooperative frameworks with the TCEQ

A new proposed rulemaking by state regulators at the Railroad Commission of Texas seeks to update the agency's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). At the November 17th open meeting, Railroad commissioners approved staff's recommendation to publish proposed amendments to 16 Texas Administrative Code § 3.30, modifying the MOU and implementing several bills passed by the state legislature, including:

• Senate Bill 1145 (89th Texas Legislature, 2025), which transferred permitting authority for the land application of produced water that is treated for beneficial use from the Railroad Commission to the TCEQ;
• Senate Bill 786 (88th Texas Legislature, 2023), which transferred jurisdiction over closed-loop geothermal injection wells from TCEQ to the Railroad Commission;
• Senate Bill 1186 (88th Texas Legislature, 2023), granting the Railroad Commission authority over brine mining; and,
• House Bill 1284 (87th Texas Legislature, 2021), which consolidated jurisdiction over onshore and offshore Class VI injection wells with Railroad Commission.

The proposed amendments would also make several changes to the MOU with the TCEQ to enhance clarity and readability without modifying the substance, intent or effect of the existing language, advised the commission.

By refining and clarifying interagency jurisdictions, the proposed amendments help eliminate regulatory duplication between Texas' primary energy and environmental agencies. Operators and stakeholders will benefit from clearer statutory boundaries regarding waste classification, permitting pathways, and jurisdictional authority, ensuring more efficient compliance and administration as state energy and environmental programs continue to evolve.

The PDF version of the Railroad Commission's proposed rule is available for review here. The proposal will be published in the Friday, December 4, 2026, issue of the Texas Register. Comments on the proposal will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., Monday, January 4, 2027. To access the online comment form and submit comments for consideration, go to the commission's Proposed Rules page using the link that follows: http://www.rrc.texas.gov/general-counsel/rules/proposed-rules/.

RRC commissioner urging Texas operators to bolster defenses against AI cyber threats

Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian on Wednesday, November 18th issued another strong warning to the state's oil and natural gas industry regarding the growing threat of artificial intelligence-driven cyberattacks that could be used to target critical energy infrastructure. Commissioner Christian emphasized that foreign adversaries, such as Iran or China, are increasingly looking to utilize advanced technology to cripple the nation, and that threat could link back to the energy sector. In response to these escalating digital vulnerabilities, the commissioner is urging operators across the Lone Star State to proactively upgrade their cyber resilience, conduct rigorous monitoring and adopt advanced defense mechanisms to secure their operations and production facilities against sophisticated digital threats.

"Texas' vital energy infrastructure is undoubtedly a target," said Commissioner Christian. "We cannot afford to wait until an attack brings it to a halt. Our oil and gas industry is essential to both our energy security and national security. As cyber threats grow more frequent and sophisticated, we must act now. Every energy company must be on high alert, close vulnerabilities and do everything possible to protect the systems Americans depend on."

His call follows a week of widespread outages and disruptions impacting major businesses, financial institutions and critical services across the nation. And though Commissioner Christian acknowledged the recent cyberattacks may not be the sole explanation for the nationwide outages experienced in November, it has showed that the threat of AI-fueled cyberattacks nevertheless must be recognized.

"Artificial intelligence is raising the stakes in cybersecurity," Commissioner Christian added. "Cyberattacks that once required highly skilled operators can now be automated and launched at machine speed. Energy companies must identify and close vulnerabilities, secure their networks, watch for suspicious activity and have a plan ready to respond before an attack occurs."

Commissioner Christian has in recent months shared warnings over growing cybersecurity risks facing the state and nation's energy infrastructure, telling Texas oil and gas producers, pipeline operators and energy companies in September to strengthen their cybersecurity defenses and act to protect vital energy infrastructure from cyber threats.

Railroad Commission listening session scheduled for December 8th

The next Railroad Commission listening session has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CST. These open sessions offer public stakeholders an opportunity to provide comments and engage directly with regulatory staff at the commission. Participants may attend in person at the Railroad Commission's Austin headquarters or can join virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Each listening session begins with an overview of the agency's regulatory functions, followed by an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and share comments. Registration is required for participation and commenting. TIPRO members can register in advance for the December 8th session by clicking here.

U.S. energy secretary tells Western European countries to expand their energy production

Speaking this week at the U.S.-led Partnership for Transatlantic Energy Cooperation conference in Warsaw, U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright urged leaders of Western European nations to follow an energy-addition mindset and grow production of their energy resources, like the United States. The secretary called out past policies across the region that failed to expand energy development, as countries instead prioritized lower carbon emission targets. However, Secretary Wright argued, the future of Western civilization depends on energy and energy security, and European countries must reconsider their approach to energy, especially as nations cut off their reliance on Russian natural gas.

During the energy conference, Secretary Wright also promoted U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG), which offers a reliable, secure source of energy to support the America's allies and strategic partners.

Looking ahead: Property tax planning for the final quarter

By J. Joseph

As organizations enter the final quarter of the year, attention often shifts toward budgeting, forecasting, capital planning, and preparing for the year ahead. While these discussions typically focus on revenue and operational expenses, property taxes should remain part of the conversation.

Now is the time to step back and evaluate your property tax position before year-end. Reviewing property portfolios, equipment records, recent acquisitions, and facility changes now can help identify potential issues, improve data accuracy, and support more informed financial planning.

The businesses that achieve the strongest property tax outcomes are rarely the ones reacting to deadlines. They're the ones taking a proactive approach long before the next assessment cycle begins.

Why the Fourth Quarter Matters

A lot can change over the course of a year.

New equipment may have been purchased, assets retired, facilities expanded, or properties acquired. Each of these changes can influence future property tax obligations and reporting requirements.

The fourth quarter provides an opportunity to review these activities and ensure internal records accurately reflect current operations. Addressing discrepancies now can help reduce complications later and create a stronger foundation for future filings and assessments.

Accurate Data Drives Better Decisions

Effective property tax management starts with accurate information.

Before the year ends, businesses should consider reviewing:

- Fixed asset schedules
- Equipment additions and disposals
- Property ownership records
- Facility improvement projects
- Inventory and asset tracking records

When records are accurate and up to date, organizations are better positioned to support valuations, improve compliance efforts, and make informed financial decisions.

Connect Property Tax Planning to Budget Planning

For many organizations, property taxes represent a significant operating expense. That's why year-end budgeting conversations should include a review of current and future property tax exposure.

Questions worth considering include:

- Have property values changed significantly?
- Were major capital investments made this year?
- Are there assets that should be removed from reporting schedules?
- Could upcoming projects affect future assessments?

Understanding these factors today can help minimize surprises and improve forecasting for the year ahead.

Position Your Organization for Success

Property tax management isn't just about compliance. It's about preparedness.

Organizations that regularly review their property tax data, monitor portfolio changes, and evaluate future liabilities are often in a stronger position to manage costs and respond to changing market conditions.

Taking a proactive approach before year-end can support better decision-making and create opportunities to improve financial outcomes moving forward.

How J. Joseph Supports Long-Term Property Tax Success

At J. Joseph, we understand that effective property tax management requires more than meeting filing requirements. It requires accurate data, proactive planning, and meaningful insights that support better business decisions throughout the year.

That's why we developed AdVolution®, our proprietary property tax compliance and management platform. Created in-house by our team of analysts, property tax advisors, and subject matter experts, AdVolution® helps ensure returns are filed accurately and in compliance with jurisdictions nationwide. The platform also provides detailed reporting that allows businesses to track appeals, monitor results, and strengthen their overall tax mitigation strategy.

To further support informed decision-making, we pair AdVolution® with our proprietary reporting summary, Trendulation®. Through comprehensive analysis, Trendulation® helps identify opportunities to potentially reduce tax liabilities while providing a complete 360-degree view of property tax performance. The result is greater visibility into assessments, savings opportunities, tax liabilities, and long-term trends that can influence future planning.

Together, these tools help organizations move beyond reactive compliance and toward a more strategic approach to property tax management.

Tax Smart. Save Big.

The final quarter is more than a time to close the books on another year. It's an opportunity to evaluate your property tax position, strengthen internal processes, and prepare for what's next.

With the right data and the right strategy, businesses can enter the new year with greater confidence and visibility.

Reduce your business property taxes. Improve your bottom line.

J. Joseph is a property tax management and consulting firm. To learn more, visit www.jjc.com.


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Sponsorships Now Available
Become a sponsor of TIPRO's 2027 Convention and make your company stand out to Texas energy executives, operators, investors and industry partners! See available sponsorships for TIPRO's upcoming annual meeting on the next page.

Sponsor TIPRO's Annual Convention!

Support the association's annual meeting while getting in front of TIPRO's membership and showcasing your company

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SOLD OUT

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- Recognition on social media

BLUE RIBBON SPONSOR $3,500

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RED RIBBON SPONSOR $2,500

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- Complimentary quarter-page ad in the TIPRO newsletter

WHITE RIBBON SPONSOR $1,500

- 1 all-access convention badge
- Acknowledgement and logo placement on event materials and signage
- Acknowledgement in the event program and in the TIPRO newsletter

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- Welcome Amenity Bag Sponsor - $3,000
- Notebook Sponsor - $2,500
- Tumbler Sponsor - $3,500
- Wifi Sponsor - $2,000

Each sponsorship includes one all-access badge to TIPRO's convention. Each sponsorship is exclusive to one participating sponsor.

TIPRO Annual Convention Sponsorship Form

February 22-24, 2027 | Austin, Texas

Thank you for your interest in sponsoring TIPRO's 81st Annual Convention. Not only does your sponsorship allow you to directly reach TIPRO's membership, your support of the association helps TIPRO host engaging and dynamic events with distinguished officials and industry leaders.

TIPRO CONVENTION SPONSOR OPTIONS

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☐ TOTEBAG SPONSOR	$3,000
☐ LANYARD SPONSOR	$2,000
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If you do not see a sponsorship opportunity you are looking for, please reach out to Joanne Reynolds at joanne@tipro.org to create the right sponsorship package that fits your needs!



Occidental

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- **BY EMAIL:** SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO TIPRO BY EMAILING INFO@TIPRO.ORG
- **BY MAIL:** RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM, WITH PAYMENT, TO: TIPRO, 919 CONGRESS AVE., SUITE 810, AUSTIN, TX 78701

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Mark if Attending: ☐ Welcome Reception ☐ Breakfast ☐ Luncheon ☐ Chairman's Dinner ☐ Call-Up Meetings*

*Legislative meetings will be set with key committee lawmakers at the capitol. For these meetings, TIPRO will give preference to constituents of key members. Please provide your home address below to help TIPRO identify your elected officials.

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Home Address City/State Zip Code

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TIPRO

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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