



**Texas  
Independent  
Producers and  
Royalty Owners  
Association**

## ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS FILE NEW PETITION TO TRY TO LIST DUNES SAGEBRUSH LIZARD AS THREATENED OR ENDANGERED

Earlier this month, two environmental groups filed a petition with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) calling for the federal agency to reconsider the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard as an endangered or threatened species. The petition also requests that the USFWS designate critical habitat for the lizard.

The Dunes Sagebrush Lizard is native to shinnery oak dunes found in West Texas and southeastern New Mexico, which is the heart of the prolific Permian Basin -- the nation's most productive oil and gas region.

Almost eight years ago, in December 2010, the USFWS proposed to list the lizard as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Then, in February 2012, the USFWS approved a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) developed with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts that would provide for the conservation of the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard, while also minimizing disturbances to the local and state economy. With the landmark voluntary conservation agreement in place, and following extensive review of the species and its habitat, the USFWS determined in June 2012 that the lizard did not need to be listed as endangered.

Later, in 2014, a federal judge upheld the government's decision to not list the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard under the ESA, rejecting the plaintiffs' argument that the lizard was not being adequately protected under the conservation agreements that were in place.

In more recent times, the office of State Comptroller Glenn Hegar, which is responsible for implementation of the Texas Conservation Plan for the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard, has been working to update provisions of the state's Conservation Plan. As part of the overhaul, officials are looking at updated maps of the lizard's habitat to take into consideration the full range of where the lizard lives. Officials also are considering ways to possibly enroll sand-mining companies in the Texas Conservation Plan that before were not part of the original conservation agreement.

Meanwhile, environmental groups still are arguing that major threats exist for the lizard, and as such, last week officially filed a listing petition to try to compel the USFWS to recognize the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard as a threatened or endangered species.

In a statement, TIPRO President Ed Longanecker said: "The petition filed by the Center for Biological Diversity and Defenders of Wildlife is another example of environmental activist organizations working to abuse the Endangered Species Act in attempts to prevent domestic oil and gas development. For over five years, the oil and gas industry has voluntarily participated in conservation agreements to protect the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard. The industry also has been supportive of research that will better inform future decisions about the species and its habitat in Texas."

Longanecker continued, "TI PRO maintains that state-led voluntary conservation efforts are the best approach to the conservation and protection of this species and its habitat, while also still providing the opportunity for responsible energy development in the Permian Basin."

Now, the USFWS has entered into a 90-day evaluation period for the new petition that has been filed to determine if there is sufficient cause to move forward in the process. If that is the case, the agency then will have one year to publish its finding on whether federal protection for the Dunes Sagebrush Lizard is warranted.

In the meantime, there have been continued discussions in Washington D.C. of reforming the ESA to address challenges and prevent abuse of the policy. The ESA, first signed into law by Congress in 1973, has not been updated in nearly 30 years. Environmental groups have seized on the ESA to pursue costly litigation and other legal tactics to take advantage of closed-door settlements.

With the Trump Administration in charge, however, there has been renewed momentum in Congress to try to modernize and improve implementation of the ESA. One legislative proposal being considered by Congress, "the Listings Reform Act," introduced in 2017 by Texas Congressman Pete Olson, would authorize the secretary of the Interior to consider economic impacts in listing decisions for threatened species and allow preclusion of the listing if the likelihood of significant, cumulative economic effects would result from the listing, or from the resulting designation of critical habitat for that species. The bill also would grant more agency flexibility in the petition process to discourage excessive ESA litigation. Other legislative reforms that have been proposed seek to combat the proliferation of ESA-litigation by capping attorneys' fees in ESA cases, and establishing greater federal and state cooperation and data transparency for species designations under the ESA.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TIPRO Members,

Crude oil prices rose this week to a multi-year high, before retracting slightly on news from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that it is cutting production by more than is required. The surge in oil prices over the past year have been fueled by rising global demand, previously extended production cuts by OPEC, and new sanctions on Iran, which are expected to restrict oil exports from one of the largest producers in the Middle East, providing another opportunity for the U.S. to gain market share. Fortunately Texas is ready and willing to fill that void!

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) recently increased its 2018 production estimate to 10.72 million barrels per day (bpd), expecting growth of 1.37 million bpd this year. EIA's forecast also shows that U.S. crude oil output could reach 12 million bpd by the fourth quarter of 2019, nearly 500,000 bpd above previous estimates. The latest EIA Drilling Productivity Report (DPR) projects a near-term increase in oil and gas production for seven key regions: the Anadarko, Appalachian and Permian basins, and the Bakken, Eagle Ford, Haynesville and Niobrara formations. Not surprising, most of the increase in oil production in the short- and long-term will come from the Permian Basin, which is forecast to reach 3.28 million bpd, compared to 3.20 million bpd in May. According to the report, smaller increases are expected in five other plays, with the Anadarko estimated at 524,000 bpd, Appalachia at 114,000 bpd, Bakken at 1.24 million bpd, Eagle Ford at 1.39 million bpd and Niobrara at 596,000 bpd. The Haynesville (42,000 bpd) is likely to see oil production remain unchanged.

While EIA did not raise projections relating to oil demand for 2018 or 2019, according to the *Monthly Oil Market Report* released this week, OPEC increased its global oil demand growth estimate by 25,000 bpd from the April report, to 1.65 million bpd. The revision was primarily the result of updated Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) data for the first quarter of 2018. New data from Asia, including India and Latin America, also prompted OPEC to revise oil demand growth in non-OECD nations higher. China is expected to lead oil demand growth this year, followed by other Asian countries and OECD Americas. OPEC said that U.S. drillers will account for most of the growth in oil production this year and cited several "disruptive" concerns that could impact global economic growth, including sanctions on Russia and Iran, tariffs on China and prolonged NAFTA negotiations.

TIPRO continues to track domestic and global market trends and actively engages in all priority state, federal and international issues that impact the Texas oil and gas industry, including NAFTA, steel tariffs, and a range of state and federal legislative and regulatory items throughout the year. As market conditions continue to improve, we ask for your continued support as we work to increase our advocacy and communication efforts to address new and existing challenges facing our industry. In the coming months, you will see several new initiatives from TIPRO and a continuation with our strong focus on efforts to maintain an environment conducive to economic growth through the responsible development of oil and natural gas.

Regards,

Ed Longanecker



**Ed Longanecker**

## TIPRO HOSTS MEMBERSHIP ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH CHAIRMAN TODD HUNTER



Chairman Todd Hunter with TIPRO members during the association's May 8<sup>th</sup> policy roundtable in Corpus Christi

Last Tuesday, May 8, TIPRO hosted a private roundtable meeting in Corpus Christi involving members of the association and state Representative Todd Hunter, chairman of the House Calendars Committee. During the meeting, members were able to discuss a variety of important issues facing the Texas oil and natural gas industry, including infrastructure investment, crude oil and LNG exports, and the approaching legislative session.

Next month, TIPRO looks forward to hosting our next District Policy Roundtable with Chairman Four Price in Amarillo. We encourage members from the region to engage in the discussion. Additional policy roundtables will be scheduled throughout the state in the coming months. TIPRO President Ed Longanecker said, "These forums provide a unique opportunity to openly discuss legislative, regulatory, legal and operational priorities facing independent producers and royalty owners with key elected officials." Please contact TIPRO for details.

### TIPRO Calendar of Events

<b>JUNE 13, 2018</b> <b>HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO</b> Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.	<b>JULY 11, 2018</b> <b>HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO</b> Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.	<b>AUGUST 8, 2018</b> <b>HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO</b> Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.	<b>AUGUST 8-9, 2018</b> <b>SAN ANTONIO — TIPRO</b> 2018 Summer Conference, Hyatt Hill Country Resort. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.
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## TEXAS HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LAND & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT HOLDS HEARING ON EMINENT DOMAIN

The Texas House Committee on Land & Resource Management held a hearing in Houston last Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss its interim charge relating to eminent domain statutes in Texas. The committee has been tasked with examining the current eminent domain structure to ensure there is a balance between necessary infrastructure growth and fair compensation for landowners. Invited testimony panelists included representatives from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and various agricultural/landowner groups, as well as members for local government, pipelines, electric companies, and the oil and natural gas industry.

The discussion during the hearing was mainly centered on the costs associated with eminent domain proceedings, with some focus on legislation that failed to pass during the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session in 2017. The committee has announced it may hold at least one more hearing on this issue in the coming months, at another location around the state.

## HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE TO REVIEW GROUNDWATER POLICIES

Next Wednesday, May 23, members of the Texas House Natural Resources Committee will meet in Brady, Texas, for a public hearing to review the status of groundwater policy in Texas. Specifically, the committee plans to discuss emerging issues tied to groundwater and surface water interaction, with particular focus on areas of increasing competition for scarce resources.

The committee also will continue its examination of this interim charge two weeks later on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> in Canyon, Texas. During the June 5<sup>th</sup> hearing, members intend to take up the following items:

- Progress and challenges in encouraging coordination and consistency in aquifer-wide management and permitting practices;
- Developments in case law regarding groundwater ownership and regulation;
- Potential improvements to the existing groundwater permitting process, including those contemplated in H.B. 31 (85R);
- The appropriate consideration of the service area of a water supplier when groundwater resources are allocated based on surface ownership;
- The designation of brackish groundwater production zones and related research;
- Groundwater data and science needs
- Emerging issues in groundwater and surface water interaction, in particular in areas of increasing competition for scarce resources.

## TEXAS SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES NAMES NEW COMMITTEE DIRECTOR

State Senator Brian Birdwell, chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development, recently announced Tucker Royall will be the next committee director. Royall is currently serving as general counsel for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and will start leading the committee on May 21. Royall also has experience as an independent landman, and has previously served as an advisor to former Governor Rick Perry.

Chairman Birdwell said, “Between his time in the oil and gas arena and his critical work at TCEQ, Tucker brings a wealth of experience to this new role. I’m looking forward to having him on board to support this committee and serve the citizens of our state.”

## TEXAS PRIMARY RUN-OFF ELECTION ON TUESDAY, MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>

The 2018 Texas Primary Run-off Election will be held next Tuesday, May 22. Altogether, there are 33 primary run-off races for statewide, congressional and legislative offices. Candidates selected from Tuesday’s run-off election will face the opposing party’s candidate in November’s General Election.

To see additional information on the run-off elections or to find a polling location near you, please visit: [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov).

## TEXAS COMPTROLLER VISITS OXY TRAINING CENTER IN TOUR HIGHLIGHTING WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar stopped in Midland on May 9<sup>th</sup> to visit the Occidental Petroleum Technical Training Center as part of his statewide ‘Women in the Workforce tour’ marking contributions of women in the Texas workforce. During his visit to Oxy’s Training Center, Hegar recognized the achievements of Barbara Bergersen, senior vice president of Oxy’s Permian Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) business unit, who has worked in the oil and gas industry for almost 40 years.

The comptroller’s stop in Midland also put a spotlight on the economic impact of Texas women throughout the natural resources and mining industry, which is predominantly comprised of the oil and gas sector. “The natural resources and mining industry is a major economic driver in Texas. Women play a big part in that industry, contributing \$122.6 billion to the Texas economy — nearly 8 percent of the gross state product, according to most recent data,” Hegar said. “In 2017, Texas women held more than 65,000 jobs in the natural resources and mining industry, and those jobs ultimately supported about 73,000 jobs in other industries throughout our economy.”

According to the comptroller, more than 6 million women held jobs in Texas in 2017. Still, Comptroller Hegar says he hopes his tour highlighting the triumphs of Texas’ working women will lead to additional discussions on ways to ensure that women have equal access to advancement in the workplace and more leadership roles throughout the Texas economy.





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## IOGCC ENCOURAGES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION, CONGRESS TO DELEGATE MORE AUTHORITY TO STATES

Members of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC), a multi-state government agency serving state energy regulators, last week approved a resolution that calls on President Donald Trump and the U.S. Congress, in the spirit of cooperative federalism, to identify existing federal regulations that should be delegated to the states for administration in order to improve regulatory efficiency and effectiveness. The measure was spearheaded by Texas Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian, who is the official representative for the state of Texas on the IOGCC.

“We are facing a unique time in the history of our nation, especially regarding energy,” commented Commissioner Christian. “The United States is on track to surpass Saudi Arabia and Russia as the top producer of oil and gas in the world. This is an excellent opportunity for states to join together to work with the federal government to transcend partisan politics and correct misuses of federal regulatory power that have threatened our energy sector, the jobs it creates and the economy of our states.”

Following the passage of the resolution, the president of the United States, vice president, key administration officials and congressional leaders now will be sent a copy of IOGCC’s resolution that encourages the federal leaders to determine whether any additional regulatory authorities should be delegated to states.

## REMINDER: COMMENTS DUE JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> ON RRC OILFIELD RELIEF INITIATIVE RULE PROPOSAL

Through Friday, June 1, the Texas Railroad Commission is accepting public comments on the agency’s latest regulatory proposal to amend §3.52 and §3.53, which would update testing requirements for oil wells. The regulatory changes, if approved, would allow operators to choose not to file an annual well production capability test after an initial test has been filed with the commission. The measure is part of Texas Oilfield Relief Initiative led by commission Chairman Christi Craddick. To read more on the proposal, please see the May 3<sup>rd</sup> *TIPRO Target* newsletter here: [bit.ly/May3TIPROTarget](http://bit.ly/May3TIPROTarget).

Stakeholders may submit comments online to the commission for consideration by visiting: <https://bit.ly/2FYjSgL>.

## TCEQ NAMED ONE OF NATION’S TOP GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Texas’ leading environmental regulatory agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), has been recognized as one of the top mid-sized employers in the nation by *Forbes Magazine*. Headquartered in Austin, the TCEQ currently employs 2,600 workers statewide in a range of disciplines.

“I am so proud of our staff and welcome this much-deserved recognition,” remarked TCEQ Chairman Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E. “Our people are our strength and do the heavy lifting every day to serve the people of Texas and protect our environment.”

Each year, via an independent firm, *Forbes* conducts an anonymous survey of 30,000 Americans in companies with more than 1,000 employees. Respondents rank their likelihood of recommending their employer to others and nominate organizations outside their own. This year, TCEQ was named the top government agency in Texas and the fifth best nationwide, according to the *Forbes* survey.

“TCEQ is a great place to work because we have exceptional people who are engaged in a shared mission to protect public health and the environment for the benefit of our fellow Texans. Combining meaningful work, a shared purpose in serving our communities, and great colleagues is a recipe for a rewarding career,” TCEQ Commissioner Jon Niemann said.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation May 7<sup>th</sup> to honor the state agency for being named one of America’s Best Employers for 2018. The governor commended the agency for creating high-quality jobs and making Texas the best state for business. “The future of Texas is bright because of exemplary employers like the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,” said Governor Abbott.

## DRILLING ACTIVITY UP IN TEXAS AS RRC ISSUES MORE PERMITS



Drilling permits in Texas were up 34 percent in April compared to a year ago, according to new statistics released from the Texas Railroad Commission. The agency says it issued a total of 1,221 drilling permits last month compared to 909 in April 2017. The Midland region accounted for the most drilling permits issued in the state in April, with 573 permits issued to drill oil and gas holes.

As oil prices steadily increase, the latest rig count from Baker Hughes confirms producers in the Lone Star State are looking to expand drilling operations, with a continual increase in the state’s rig count so far in 2018.

Texas has a total of 523 rigs deployed right now. A year ago, the state had 451 rigs.

In the state’s Permian Basin, there are 375 active rigs at this time, while the Eagle Ford Shale in South Texas has 78 rigs deployed across the formation.

## EPA's SCOTT PRUITT MOVES TO REVAMP NAAQS REVIEW PROCESS

In a memorandum signed May 10, 2018, Scott Pruitt, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), outlined new reforms in the works at the EPA for the federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) under the Clean Air Act. The reforms will achieve items included in a directive issued by President Donald Trump on April 12<sup>th</sup> that had instructed the EPA to ensure efficient and cost-effective implementation of air quality standards under NAAQS and regional haze programs administered by the EPA. The president's order also had directed the EPA to set air quality standards based on transparent science.

"The principles laid out in this memorandum will reform the process for setting national air quality standards in a manner consistent with cooperative federalism and the rule of law," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. "Getting EPA and its advisors back on track with Clean Air Act requirements, statutory deadlines, and the issuance of timely implementation rules will ensure that we continue the dramatic improvement in air quality across our country."

Texas Congressman Pete Olson thanked Pruitt and his team for taking action to improve air quality standards while finding ways to reduce unnecessary red tape. "As Administrator Pruitt and I discussed early in his tenure at EPA, clean air is our common goal, the question is how we get there. Missed deadlines and delayed guidance don't help achieve it. Having all the facts as we set these standards also provides useful insight as standards that impact wide swaths of the country are set."

To read Administrator Pruitt's complete memo, see: <https://bit.ly/2IudFxC>.

## EPA RELEASES SPRING AGENDA OUTLINING FEDERAL REGULATORY-AND DEREGULATORY-ACTIONS

Discussing the Trump Administration's progress on regulatory reform, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Chief Scott Pruitt highlighted the agency's regulatory plans with the release of EPA's *Spring 2018 Semiannual Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions*. "This latest regulatory agenda reflects the Trump Administration's commitment to reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens. EPA is advancing this agenda by listening and working in partnership with the regulated community to improve environmental protections for the American people while also promoting economic growth," said Administrator Pruitt.

To achieve priorities under the Spring Agenda, the EPA has engaged participants of the agency's Smart Sectors Program, launched in October 2017 to provide a platform for open dialogue amongst regulators and regulatory communities on how to improve environmental protection while promoting economic growth. Administrator Pruitt included over 80 partners participating in EPA's Smart Sectors Program in his presentation of the Spring 2018 Agenda. He commented, "Meaningful collaboration with regulated sectors is the cornerstone of the Smart Sectors program, and we are pleased to kick off the Spring Regulatory Agenda with our Smart Sectors partners in attendance."

According to the EPA, there are a total of 59 deregulatory actions included the Spring 2018 Regulatory Agenda, 11 of which are new. In total, the agenda outlines 38 actions appearing for the first time. The Spring 2018 Regulatory Agenda includes 10 actions that have been withdrawn and another 24 that have been completed since the publication of the Fall 2017 Semiannual Regulatory Agenda.

## GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN PRESS EPA FOR MORE TIME TO COMMENT ON DRAFT SCIENCE RULE

In a letter sent May 14<sup>th</sup> to Scott Pruitt, head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 20 U.S. senators have asked the federal agency to provide more time for public comment on the EPA's proposed rule, "Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science." The senators, all Democrats with the exception of Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont), requested the EPA extend the comment deadline to July 30, 2018, for the proposed rule in order to provide stakeholders adequate time to submit thorough, well-reasoned comments, and to allow officials the chance to hold at least one public hearing on its proposed changes to requirements for scientific studies used by the agency to support its decision-making and craft new federal environmental regulations. Currently, the one-month comment window for this regulatory proposal is set to close on Wednesday, May 30.

Administrator Pruitt issued the rule proposal in late April, saying that "the era of secret science at EPA is coming to an end." The rule, if implemented, would ensure that the regulatory science guiding EPA actions is fully transparent, and that underlying scientific information is publicly available in a manner sufficient for independent validation.

## DR. JIM F. REILLY TAKES OVER AS NEW USGS DIRECTOR

In mid-May, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) welcomed Dr. Jim Reilly as the new director of the agency. Dr. Reilly is an experienced geoscientist, a former astronaut, and an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He has membership in the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Naval Reserve Association, Reserve Officers Association, and the Association of Space Explorers. "Dr. Reilly is an accomplished explorer, scientist, and public servant who has spent years defending our nation as a Navy Reserve officer and pushing the limits as an astronaut," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. "Dr. Reilly will be a strong leader for the USGS as it addresses the natural resource opportunities and challenges we face as a nation."

The USGS, a branch of the U.S. Interior Department, conducts multidisciplinary scientific research that provides impartial data and information needed by land and resource managers, planners, emergency services officials, and other decision-makers to make informed policy decisions. Amongst other services, USGS science helps the United States government manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources.

## EIA SOLICITS STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK FOR NEW *WEEKLY NATURAL GAS LIQUIDS REPORT*

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) is developing a new industry information survey, Form EIA-806: *Weekly Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) Report*, to collect data on production and stocks of NGL on a weekly basis. The agency says that this will allow EIA to report weekly NGL production in the United States for the first time, using actual data collected from natural gas processing plants. “U.S. production of NGL from gas processing plants increased from 2.1 million barrels per day in 2010 to 3.7 million barrels per day in 2017. Increased NGL supply from gas processing plants make new weekly data necessary in order for EIA to accurately represent U.S. and regional supply balances for petroleum, total natural gas liquids, and propane in the Weekly Petroleum Status Report (WPSR),” explains the EIA.

The EIA is accepting public comment on the proposed data collection for the natural gas industry through June 4, 2018. To find additional information on the form, please visit: <https://www.eia.gov/survey/notice/petform806ngliquids.php>.

## NEW STUDY HIGHLIGHTS INDUSTRY INVESTMENTS IN GREENHOUSE GAS-REDUCING TECHNOLOGIES

A new study published in May underscores the oil and natural gas industry’s strong levels of investment in innovative technologies that reduce air emissions and help the environment. The analysis, commissioned by the American Petroleum Institute (API), estimates that between 2000-2016, U.S. based oil and natural gas companies invested a cumulative \$301.5 billion (\$108.2 billion without shale gas) in greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigating technologies in the North American market. This represents 50 percent of the estimated total of \$597.8 billion spent by U.S. companies and the federal government, explains API.

“The natural gas and oil industry is a leader in the development and deployment of greenhouse gas reducing technologies,” said API Vice President of Regulatory and Economic Policy Kyle Isakower. “It shows that our nation can lead the world in energy production, strengthen our economy and create good-paying jobs while leading the world in the reduction of carbon emissions, which are at 25-year lows across the entire U.S. economy.”

The report also details how the substantial investments in GHG mitigation technologies have helped to enable the U.S. oil and gas industry to successfully reduce its overall emissions. According to API, in 2016, the industry reported the largest GHG reduction to date compared to the previous year – with GHG reductions of more than 57 MM tons of CO equivalent. That’s the amount of carbon that would be captured by more than 5.4 billion, 10-year-old evergreen and pine trees.

See the full study, “*Key Investments in Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Technologies*,” by visiting: <https://bit.ly/2IoFwAe>.

## METHANE EMISSIONS ON UNIVERSITY LANDS HAVE DROPPED 20 PERCENT SINCE 2014

Despite another push in May by environmentalists to compel the University of Texas System to cut emissions of methane from oil and gas development on University Lands by 50 percent, leaders of the UT System have spoken out on reductions that are already being made. Mark Houser, the system’s CEO of university lands, said in a statement that methane emissions from the lands have decreased almost 20 percent since 2014 even as production increased 7 percent during that timeframe. “Public concern and existing industry efforts will ensure the decline continues,” he responded.

## APACHE, NOBLE ENERGY COMMIT TO ANCHOR NEW PERMIAN-TO-CORPUS CHRISTI PIPELINE



Apache Corporation and Noble Energy, both members of TIPRO, announced in May that the companies will be the primary customers for a new crude oil pipeline that will stretch from the Permian Basin down to Corpus Christi, Texas. The 730-mile EPIC Crude Oil Pipeline, expected to begin service in the second half of 2019, will help to ease the bottleneck as producers face limited pipeline capacity to move crude oil out of West Texas to other markets.

“As one of the largest acreage holders in the Permian Basin, Apache’s participation in the EPIC Crude Oil Pipeline helps to ensure takeaway capacity for our production from the region. The partnership enhances our long-term operational flexibility and market optionality in our Delaware and Midland Basin focus areas,” said Brian Freed, Apache’s senior vice president of midstream and marketing.

Noble Energy’s Executive Vice President of Operations Gary W. Willingham also commented, “Noble Energy’s strategic agreement with EPIC provides long-term flow assurance for our rapidly growing Delaware Basin oil volumes. With this agreement, we have further diversified our onshore marketing outlets with access to the Gulf Coast and global markets.”

The new EPIC Crude Oil Pipeline will run alongside the EPIC Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) Pipeline, also in development, which BP Energy Company previously agreed to anchor. The first phase of the NGL pipeline, extending from DLK Black River Midstream to Delaware Basin Midstream, is already in operation. The second phase, running from Delaware Basin Midstream to Benedum, Texas, is under construction and expected to be completed this summer. The pipeline’s third phase will be completed by the second half of 2019, and will stretch from Benedum to Corpus Christi.





# 88<sup>th</sup> Midyear MEETING

**JUNE 25-26, 2018**



**HYATT REGENCY LOST PINES RESORT & SPA**

## Featured Keynote Speakers



**The Honorable  
Will Hurd  
(R-TX)**



**The Honorable  
Vincente Gonzalez  
(D-TX)**



**The Honorable  
Jim Gerlach  
BIPAC**



**Tim Leach  
Chairman & CEO  
Concho Resources Inc.**



**Doug Suttles  
President & CEO  
Encana Corporation**



**Guillermo Malpica Soto  
Head of Trade-NAFTA  
for Mexico**



### **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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