



Texas

**Independent
Producers and
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Association**

RIISING DOMESTIC OIL PRODUCTION REDUCES NATION'S NEED FOR PETROLEUM IMPORTS

With rising production levels from America's oil fields, the United States has been successful in reducing its net petroleum imports from foreign nations in recent years, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). This trend is expected to continue through the year 2020, EIA analysts project, assuming no changes in current laws and regulations (including a repeal of U.S. crude oil export restrictions by the federal government during the next five years).

"Increasing levels of domestic crude oil production through 2020 have two effects: lower crude oil imports and higher throughput at U.S. refineries. Higher refinery throughput increases production and net exports of refined petroleum products like motor gasoline and diesel fuel," explained the EIA. "Together, lower crude oil imports and higher product exports reduce net imports of petroleum and other liquids, which in 2013 provided 33 percent of total U.S. consumption (product supplied)... this percentage falls to 14 percent in 2020, when domestic crude oil production reaches 10.6 million barrels per day."

Last year, approximately 27 percent of the petroleum consumed by the United States was imported from foreign countries, the lowest level experienced in nearly thirty years, since 1985. With the United States continuing to lessen its reliance on foreign oil, America's energy security is improving each day.

Independent oil and gas operators play a leading role in this remarkable resurgence of domestic production growth, which has allowed for a drop in petroleum imports. Collectively, independents drill about 95 percent of American oil and natural gas wells, produce about 56 percent of American oil and more than 85 percent of American natural gas.

HOUSE BILL 40 PASSES TEXAS SENATE, HEADS TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

With a vote of 24-7, on Monday, May 4, the Texas Senate gave final approval of House Bill 40, sending the legislation to the desk of Governor Greg Abbott. Governor Abbott is expected to sign the bill into law.

House Bill 40, authored by House Energy Resources Committee Chairman, affirms that the state of Texas holds exclusive jurisdiction for regulating subsurface oil and gas activities, including drilling, hydraulic fracturing and production. Under the bill, however, municipalities will maintain local authority and still have the ability to address concerns related to surface activity that is incident to oil and gas, such as fire and emergency response, noise and light pollution or traffic concerns. Cities also can enact, amend or enforce ordinances relating to setback distances, though such changes to setback requirements must be deemed commercially reasonable.

"Our greatest priority as an industry is the need for regulatory certainty in our operations," commented Ed Longanecker, president of TIPRO. "A patchwork effect of local ordinances creating inconsistent regulations, some of which are intentionally onerous in nature, is the wrong path forward and if left unchecked, could negatively impact investment, tax revenue, employment and lead to additional legal challenges over property rights. House Bill 40 will provide much needed clarity and will help keep the Texas Miracle alive for decades to come."

"House Bill 40, I would represent, is a very carefully crafted compromise between the Texas Municipal League and the oil and gas industry," said Senator Troy Fraser, chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development and sponsor of the legislation. Fraser described the measure as an effort to avoid double regulation of the Texas oil and gas industry, emphasizing House Bill 40 would offer clarification that the state is the ultimate authority when setting policies related to oil and gas exploration and production.

House Bill 40 was filed in the legislature earlier this year in response to the infamous hydraulic fracturing ban that was passed in Denton last November. After successfully passing the House of Representatives, the legislation was considered last week by the Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee, which voted favorably to approve the bill without addition of any amendments. TIPRO provided public testimony before members of the committee, offering support of the bill.

House Bill 40 will take effect immediately if signed into law by the governor of Texas.



A MESSAGE FROM TIPRO & TEXAS MONTHLY

TIPRO members-

TIPRO and *Texas Monthly* are pleased to announce the launch of this year's Texas Top Producers program.

The Texas Top Producers program, now in its fourth year, is an outstanding opportunity to recognize and celebrate the most distinguished professionals in the Texas oil and gas industry. The program also allows all of us to bring additional awareness to the *Texas Monthly* readership on the positive economic support offered by the oil and gas industry in the Lone Star State.

We strongly encourage you to take an active role in this year's program by nominating a deserving colleague or peer. If you believe a particular individual meets the criteria for Best CEO, Engineer, Landman or Geoscientist in the Texas industry, please submit your nomination(s) via the TIPRO website, at <http://tipro.org/about-us/ttp>. The deadline for nominations will be on June 5, 2015.

Nominations will later be reviewed by the TIPRO-Texas Top Producers Awards Committee. Selected finalists will be published in *Texas Monthly* later this year, as well as featured in a special independent Texas Top Producers publication. An awards banquet will also be hosted by TIPRO in October at the Houston Petroleum Club.

For additional information on the 2015 Texas Top Producers program, please contact TIPRO's Director of Development Stephen Coffman at (512) 477-4452 or *Texas Monthly*'s Regional Director of Corporate Strategy Lisa G. Edwards at (512) 320-6995.

We eagerly look forward to celebrating this industry's top performers in 2015. We hope you will participate in support of your colleagues and your industry's accomplishments.

Thank you.



Ed Longanecker
President, TIPRO



David B. Dunham
Publisher, *Texas Monthly*

TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS PROMOTE BILL TO END CRUDE EXPORT BAN

Members of the Texas congressional delegation are leading efforts to end the nation's 40-year-old ban on exports of crude oil. Under House Resolution 702, legislation introduced in February by U.S. Representative Joe Barton (R-TX), all restrictions on the export of crude oil would be repealed, providing domestic economic benefits, enhanced energy security, and flexibility in foreign diplomacy.

"This common-sense, straight forward and now bi-partisan bill simply repeals the authority to restrict the export of crude oil. Support of this bill shouldn't be based on party affiliation; it should be based on facts," commented Representative Barton.

Congressman Henry Cuellar (D-TX), co-sponsor of the resolution, remarked, "Oil and energy technology has transformed over recent decades, yet we still have laws on the books from the 70's governing crude oil—it just doesn't make sense. It's time for the crude oil ban to be lifted, allowing the U.S. to compete in the global marketplace and reap the benefits of doing so, including hundreds of thousands of jobs—many of which will be in Texas. While I work with my friends across the aisle like Congressman Barton to ensure that the current, outdated bans on oil exports are lifted, I will also fight to ensure America's refineries have equal access to American oil—we cannot enact legislation that benefits only one portion of the energy sector while disadvantaging another to the benefit of foreign competitors. I look forward to working together towards the goal of free trade and free markets—that is what is best for America and for Texas."

Co-sponsors of H.R. 702 now include: U.S. Representatives Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Jim Bridenstine (R-OK), John Carter (R-TX), Steve Chabot (R-OH), Michael Conaway (R-TX), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Bill Flores (R-TX), Trent Franks (R-AZ), Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), French Hill (R-AR), Kenny Marchant (R-TX), Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), Randy Neugebauer (R-TX), Robert Pittenger (R-NC), Steve Pearce (R-NM), Ted Poe (R-TX), Matt Salmon (R-AZ) and Joe Wilson (R-SC).

Back in January, Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX) introduced similar legislation under House Resolution 156, which also calls for the removal of the nation's ban on crude oil exports. "Most of America's crude oil production is taking place underneath the feet of Texans in the Eagle Ford Shale and the Permian Basin... Lifting the outdated ban on crude oil exports will result in more production, create new jobs at home and boost America's energy security while giving us a powerful new foreign policy tool. Ending self-imposed energy trade restrictions should be a top priority of the new Congress," said Congressman McCaul at the start of the year.

Both of Texas' U.S. senators, John Cornyn and Ted Cruz, support doing away with the crude export ban, as do other state officials from Texas, including the Texas Railroad Commissioners.

TIPRO Calendar of Events

MAY 13, 2015	JUNE 10, 2015	JULY 8, 2015	JULY 29-30, 2015
HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (832) 233-5502.	HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (832) 233-5502.	HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (832) 233-5502.	SAN ANTONIO — South Texas Oilfield Expo, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. For info, call: (866) 918-5550.

STATE LAWMAKERS REVIEW SEISMIC ACTIVITY IN TEXAS

On Monday, May 4, 2015, members of the House Energy Resources Committee heard invited testimony on land shifting and seismic activity in Texas. In the course of Monday's hearing, the committee also reviewed the following proposed bills:

- House Bill 2003, by Representative Richard Peña Raymond, relating to the applicability of the law governing the mineral use of subdivided land.
- House Bill 2191, by Representative Rafael Anchia, relating to the posting by the Railroad Commission of Texas on its internet website of certain enforcement information.
- House Bill 2932, by Representative Anchia, relating to a study and report by the Bureau of Economic Geology on land shifting.
- House Bill 3198, by Representative John Cyrier, relating to permitting for injection wells in certain oil and gas producing counties.
- House Bill 3480, by Representative Sylvester Turner, relating to air quality permits issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for certain oil and gas facilities.
- House Bill 4044, by Representative Chris Paddie, relating to the imposition of a fee on a holder of a permit for an oil and gas waste disposal well.

During the Energy Resources hearing, experts emphasized that hydraulic fracturing is not a suspected cause of any seismic activity in the state of Texas, despite what some members of the media may have recently claimed in published reports.

TEXAS HOUSE APPROVES \$4.9 BILLION TAX RELIEF PACKAGE

Last week, the Texas House of Representatives gave unanimous approval to a pair of bills that would ease the tax burden for all Texans. The House voted 141-0 to pass House Bill 31, which would reduce the state sales tax rate from 6.25 percent to 5.95 percent. If signed into law, it would be the first cut in the state's sales tax in Texas history. The same day, the chamber also passed House Bill 32 with a vote of 116-29. House Bill 32 addresses burdensome business taxes by providing a 25 percent across the board franchise tax cut. Both bills now are headed to the Senate for consideration.

"Today the House voted to provide all Texans with tax relief that encourages job creation and economic growth," said Speaker of the House Joe Straus. "The House looks forward to a productive conversation with the Senate about how best to deliver results on this issue and the many others that matter to our economy and to Texas families."

"By cutting the sales tax for the first time in Texas history, from 6.25 percent to 5.95 percent, Texans will see a permanent tax cut every single time they shop in the grocery store, the mall, the hardware store, and even the sporting goods store. Every Texan will see tax relief from this sales tax cut," commented Representative Brooks Landgraf on House Bill 31. "At a time when the economy is changing in West Texas, tax relief is welcome, and I am committed to lessening the tax burden of Texans and their business now and in the future."

In the days leading up to the vote on the two bills, a formal letter was distributed signed by nearly all Republicans in the Texas House — 90 of 98 — lending endorsement to the tax cut legislation. "The House plan is the largest tax cut on the table... The House plan does the most to stimulate the economy. It creates tens of thousands more jobs, and does more to add to personal income growth. Instead of picking winners and losers in the marketplace, the House plan gives a larger reduction to all businesses that pay the business franchise tax by providing a 25 percent across the board tax cut. If we are going to have a business tax, we want to preserve the original intent: a tax that is broader, with a lower rate, because more employers participate in it. We look forward to working with our colleagues in the Senate to provide the best plan for Texas," read the letter.

SENATE BILL 709, CONTESTED CASE REFORM LEGISLATION, PASSED BY LEGISLATURE

The Texas Legislature has approved policy reform that will improve the process for contested cases in Texas. With the passage of Senate Bill 709, the process for obtaining an environmental permit will be streamlined by limiting contested case hearings to approximately 180 days. The bill will help Texas remain a competitor against other gulf coast states for major economic investments. Under current rules, Texas is at a serious disadvantage because of the length of time it can take to get a permit for any major environmental project if there is a contested case hearing. Companies in competing states, meanwhile, can obtain necessary environmental permits in six months to break ground. The same process can take up to two years in Texas. Other states point to the slow Texas environmental permitting process when courting industry prospects. Some even use the contested case process merely to delay or obstruct economic investment in Texas.

Senate Bill 709 will not abolish, repeal or otherwise eliminate the contested case process. The bill preserves the current public participation opportunities available in the environmental permitting process at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). However, the contested case reform bill brings the Texas permitting process closer in line with competing states and makes progress in leveling the playing field for Texas to attract major investments and jobs here. It will ensure an efficient, fair and competitive process that drives economic growth in the Lone Star State. The bill delivers certainty to investors by establishing a six-month timeframe for the contested case hearing process.

The bill returns to the Senate to approve or disapprove of the changes made in the House of Representatives.

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Keynote Luncheon Speaker



Gen. Keith B. Alexander

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Hear from one of our nation's top cybersecurity experts. Gen. Alexander will share personal accounts from his storied career protecting Department of Defense (DoD) computer networks and our nation from cyber-attacks.

Featured Speakers



Faron Thibodeaux
Vice President - Permian Region
Apache Corp.



Randy Foutch
Chairman and CEO
Laredo Petroleum



Matthew Hairford
President
Matador Resources



Steve Gray
CEO
RSP Permian



DUG Permian Basin Midstream Program

Tuesday, May 19

As the nation's top crude-producing region, the Permian Basin has enviable midstream infrastructure. But, production has more than doubled in the last seven years and the EIA forecasts additional growth. Register to attend this targeted pre-conference program to learn about current and upcoming infrastructure projects from **15+ of the region's most-active midstream operators**.

**Requires separate registration.*

Topics Discussed:

- Midstream needs in the Permian Basin
- Expansion plans to increase takeaway capacity
- Regulatory hurdles and challenges
- Regional gas processing trends

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CONSERVATION EFFORTS SUCCESSFUL FOR LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN, REPORTS WAFWA

In its first complete year managing the Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) Range-wide Conservation Plan (RWP), the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) says several significant achievements have been reached. Conservation highlights over the last year noted by WAFWA include: the estimated Lesser Prairie-Chicken range-wide population has increased by 20 percent to around 22,400 birds, since last year industry partners have committed \$45.9 million in fees to pay for mitigation actions, and landowners across the range agreed to conserve nearly 40,000 acres of habitat.

“The results from the first year of RWP implementation clearly demonstrate that both industry and landowners are willing to conserve the species,” said Bill Van Pelt, WAFWA’s grassland coordinator. “Private industry’s willingness to avoid and minimize impacts to Lesser Prairie-Chickens is evident, and where those impacts were unavoidable, they paid mitigation fees to offset those impacts on cooperating landowners’ properties. As a result, all industry impacts were offset with conservation agreements during this first year.”

WAFWA reports a total of 174 oil and gas, pipeline, electric, wind energy, and telecommunication companies enrolled in agreements since 2014 to avoid, minimize, or mitigate their operations. In the process, they committed \$45,877,823 in enrollment and impact fees to cover off-site mitigation actions for unavoidable impacts.

TIPRO MEMBERS RECOGNIZED ON LIST OF AMERICA’S HAPPIEST COMPANIES

On a list of the 26 happiest companies in America, nine energy companies have been identified for having the highest levels of job satisfaction. According to a Business Insider survey, the energy sector earned the most spots on the list. TIPRO congratulates member companies EOG Resources, Anadarko Petroleum, Devon Energy and Marathon Petroleum for their recognition as employers of the happiest workers in America.

“Happy organizations not only attract and retain high quality employees, but also get consistent and high levels of performance,” said Paul Thurston, an associate professor of management at Siena College. “Managers within these organizations help their employees to develop their talents and operate at their full potential. The end result is employees who are engaged in their work and find ways to help their organizations achieve long term success.”

The new list is based on exclusive data from employer-information website PayScale, which surveyed employees in the United States who work at companies that appeared on the 2014 Fortune 500 list. PayScale calculated scores for each company using six criteria: high job satisfaction, low job stress, ability to telecommute, high job meaning, experienced median pay/total cash compensation, and salary.



ENERGY INNOVATION COMPETITION HELD AT TEXAS CAPITOL

Graduate students from five major Texas universities were invited to participate in the 2015 Texas Energy Innovation Challenge at the state capitol in Austin last week, a signature program hosted by non-profit group Power Across Texas (PAT). This year’s competition asked students to research, evaluate and develop the most creative and economic use for water produced from hydraulic fracturing of wells, whether that solution includes recycling, disposal or discharge.

Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Christi Craddick, member of the 2015 Steering Committee, delivered opening remarks at the event. “The oil and gas industry is one of the most technologically advanced industries in the world, and innovation is what made possible our recent energy renaissance,” Chairman Craddick said. “In Texas’ Barnett Shale, the introduction of combined hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling revolutionized oil and gas production worldwide, allowing the industry to safely access energy resources that were once thought unreachable.”

Craddick continued, “Today, we face a new challenge in Texas – water conservation. As in any industry, the use of our state’s precious freshwater is a paramount concern. Using technological advances, the amount of water recycled or reused and the use of brackish water in this state have increased about 21 percent between 2008 and 2011, to approximately 17,000 acre-feet. There is still much work to be done. The Energy Innovation Challenge’s effort to further recycling and water conservation is on par with critical research being developed within the oil and gas industry now.”

Fellow Steering Committee member and Texas Railroad Commissioner David Porter also addressed attendees of the energy challenge. “Oil and gas is the backbone of the Texas economy, and I’m pleased to see that young Texans are working to find innovative, practical real-world solutions to pressing energy issues, like water,” said Commissioner Porter. “The future of Texas looks even brighter thanks to these young adults.”

The event was also attended by 2015 Steering Committee members: Texas Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton and Senator Charles Perry, chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Water and Rural Affairs Committee.

Scholarship grants were announced following the competition, awarded to each of the student teams based on approved amounts by PAT’s Board of Directors and the final rankings given by the judges of the challenge.

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“HOW TO MANAGE CREDIT AND COLLECT UNPAID BILLS IN THE OIL PATCH”

BY PRESTON KAMIN AND JOE VIRENE, GRAY REED & MCGRAW

From the oilfields in West Texas to the board rooms in Houston and Dallas, everyone has an opinion on when the “rebound” in oil prices will occur. Some speculate, and even gamble, that the price per barrel will return to north of \$80 by December while others predict the recovery will take much longer. With the current conflicts in the Middle East and the ever-present glut of supply, the rebound is difficult to predict by any measure.

This environment poses many challenges for service companies and suppliers. Since October 2014, the oil and gas rig counts have plummeted from all-time highs to surprising lows. Under these circumstances, suppliers and service companies face ever-increasing risks regarding payment. These risks are apparent from the flurry of recent lawsuits filed by service companies and suppliers who claim they are not getting paid. Fortunately, there are many steps you can take to minimize credit risk and maximize leverage in the event it becomes necessary to file a lawsuit to collect payment.

Beginning the Relationship: Dot your I's and cross your T's

Understandably, salesmen working for service companies and suppliers are hungry for business. While it is tempting to close the deal with minimal paperwork or worse, a one-sided agreement, it is critical to try to obtain fair terms and conditions from all customers, and for small and mid-size customers to diligently check their credit.

Medium size and large operators typically require service companies and suppliers to sign master service agreements prior to doing any work. Master service agreements often contain clauses that have a profound impact on your ability to collect payment. For example, many agreements contain lien releases which preclude your ability to file a lien or they may impose stringent limitations on your customers' liability. Additionally, such agreements, when not negotiated, leave you vulnerable to various sources of liability. For example, indemnities and warranties warrant careful review by an attorney to ensure they are fair and equitable. Despite the common fear of “losing the business”, many operators and upstream service companies are willing to negotiate their standard default terms. Either way, it does not hurt to ask.

Of equal importance, with smaller customers, is investigating a customer's credit. When seeking out new business, salesmen often overlook asking important questions vital to assessing the customer's creditworthiness which ultimately minimize the risk of not being paid for products and services. Such inquiries include the following:

- (1) Customer/business references;
- (2) Bank information;
- (3) Names of the entities the customer has been associated with in the last five years; and
- (4) Past and current lawsuits.

This information is invaluable when deciding whether or not to extend credit to this new customer. Additionally, it can come in handy when seeking to enforce your rights by filing a mineral lien or a lawsuit. To avoid concerns of losing sales momentum or awkward questions, these questions are best posed in a credit application for the customer to fill out at the beginning of the relationship. In addition to the referenced information, the credit application should include enough information to allow you to run an adequate credit and background check as well as contain basic terms and conditions.

Of particular importance, whether it's a credit application, purchase order, or master service agreement, make sure the signatory is an officer of the company or otherwise authorized to bind the company.

On the Job

When you receive a customer's purchase order, there are several steps you can take to protect your interests. First, make sure the order does not contain terms and conditions that vary from the credit application or master service agreement you negotiated on the front end. Otherwise, you will have competing and contradictory terms and conditions – known to attorneys as the “battle of the forms.” Second, make sure you document what well (ideally by API number) your services and/or products are being supplied to. This is critical to lien rights and, for rental companies, to ensuring the safe return of tools and equipment. Third, for suppliers, delivery tickets signed by the customer help avoid disputes over the quantity, quality, and timing of a delivery.

What to Do When Things go Wrong

If a customer fails to pay, there are several options prior to filing suit. Payout agreements secured by an agreed judgment are often a viable option. Alternatively, if the customer needs additional products and services and you are willing to provide them, you may be able to negotiate a personal guaranty or an overriding royalty interest to provide you with additional and potentially more powerful claims.

More commonly, the customer is either unable or unwilling to pay. In those instances, you must protect yourself. If the amount justifies the legal expense, contact an attorney immediately. If you do so, you can take advantage of lien laws, which may give you preference over other types of creditors.

Filing a lien is a powerful tool, but it comes with a price tag: legal counsel is often necessary to follow the proper deadlines and procedures. The following steps must be followed to perfect a mineral lien:

• **Identify the Well Information** - If you did your information gathering homework up front, you should already have this information. If not, your counsel will be able to look up its API number, which is a unique number assigned to oil and natural gas wells.

Article continued on Page 9...

“MANAGING CREDIT IN THE OIL PATCH...” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

• **Send a Demand Letter** - This letter serves two functions: (1) to comply with the requisite notice requirements under Texas law and (2) a demand letter is often the most practical and least expensive way to get paid. For those suppliers and service companies who do not have a direct contract with the mineral owner(s), Texas law requires that the letter be sent to the mineral owner(s) at least ten days prior to recording the lien affidavit.

• **File the Lien Affidavit** - Importantly, this must be recorded with the county clerk within six months after labor or materials were last furnished. Failing to meet this deadline is fatal to the validity of the lien. Additionally, the lien filing must contain various information including the mineral property owner, contractor's name, dates of performance, and an itemized list of amounts claimed. The information you obtain at the beginning of the relationship will enable you to quickly gather the information necessary for the lien affidavit.

• **File a Lawsuit** - If the demand letter or lien affidavit does not persuade the customer to pay his bills, the final step is to file a lawsuit to foreclose the lien and assert other claims allowed by Texas law. The lawsuit must be filed within two years of filing the lien affidavit. The credit information you obtained on the front end will prove to be invaluable in deciding with your counsel whether or not this particular customer is worth the price of litigation.

Conclusion

Receiving payment is never a sure thing, especially in the current environment. However, following these steps from the beginning of the customer relationship to the end will minimize your credit risk and maximize your collection rights and remedies under Texas law.

EAGLE FORD APP HOPES TO HELP OPERATORS IN SOUTH TEXAS

Labeled as the first of its kind, a new app is being offered on mobile devices to serve the needs of landowners and energy companies working inside the Eagle Ford shale region. The Eagle Ford Mobile Network App features free listings for jobs, equipment for sale and service companies in addition to links for news, energy-related conferences and activities in South Texas.

Creators of the app say their mission is to enhance the lives of people who live, work, and do business in the Eagle Ford Shale by providing relevant, easy to access information and by giving businesses access to the first truly mobile platform built to serve the needs of the Eagle Ford Shale business community. The app is free to download, and is available on Apple's App Store as well as on Google Play. Learn more at: www.eaglefordmobilenetwork.com.

TEXAS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS

Texas has achieved its lowest unemployment rate since 2007, which dropped to 4.2 percent in March, according to an announcement by the Texas Workforce Commission. Texas continues to trend well below the national unemployment average of 5.5 percent. And though statewide job creation did stall over the month of March, Texas has added 327,500 jobs throughout the past year for an overall growth rate of 2.9 percent.

Until market conditions rebound, Texas oil and gas companies continue to strategically assess existing workforce needs. “While some workers may be temporarily impacted by statewide reductions in the oil and gas industry, our 28 local workforce boards stand ready to help these and all job seekers identify transferrable skills for other employment opportunities or obtain training that will help them quickly transition to new jobs,” assured TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton.

“While the state of Texas has achieved enormous success in creating jobs and spurring economic growth, it's time to renew our focus on promoting smarter tax policies that energize our economy and empower entrepreneurs to reinvest their capital in the Lone Star State,” Texas Governor Greg Abbott said in a statement. “We must do more to keep government small, taxes low and promote reasonable regulations. And by diversifying our state's economy, Texas can – and will – remain the beacon of economic opportunity for the nation.”



UPCOMING FILM STRIVES TO ADDRESS COMMON MYTHS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

A new documentary, scheduled to be released next year, will strive to uncover the truth behind common global warming misconceptions. “The Green Lie” is a story of the lies surrounding global warming and the global warming industry, film creators say. Presented by Awaken The Giant Films, the 120-minute documentary will address scandals, lies, scams, and pure fabrication regarding global warming and the agenda behind it. The ultimate goal for “The Green Lie” is to hit theaters nationwide in 2016 to effect a pop culture view regarding climate change. To watch the trailer for the film, visit: www.greenliemovie.com.



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