



Wayne Christian, Chairman

from the RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

NEWS RELEASE

Team RRC,

Today, I was honored to be unanimously elected to lead our agency as Chairman of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

It is a privilege to serve our agency during this historic period of growth for our state's oil and gas industry. Largely because of Texas, America is the largest producer of oil and gas in the world, giving us not only energy security, but national security as well.

During this period of unprecedented growth, we have also made great environmental gains. From 1970 to 2017, the six major pollutants monitored by the EPA decreased by 73%, while the U.S. economy grew 262% and its population by 60%.

As our energy sector has grown, the Railroad Commission of Texas has been there every step of the way to make sure production was done in a way that is safe and fair, preventing the waste of our resources and protecting the correlative rights of thousands of Texans.

Over the last biennium, we have returned our agency to full strength. With funding from the legislature, we were able to meet growing demands and backfill positions that were deferred last biennium. Overall, we have increased our total staffing level from 659 to over 780 full-time employees, the highest level in Commission history.

As a result, the Railroad Commission has been able to reduce the time it takes to receive a permit from about a week to less than three days. Additionally, our Oil and Gas inspectors exceeded their five-year inspection target and met the goal of inspecting 130,000 wells during the last fiscal year. The agency also plugged 1,440 abandoned wells, exceeding the performance measure of 979 wells set by the Legislature.

As Chairman, I look forward to continuing to ensure our agency provides a consistent, predictable regulatory environment that allows businesses to thrive while protecting the public from bad actors.

I would like to thank Commissioners Craddick and Sitton for their service and entrusting me with this honor. I would also like to thank each and everyone of you for coming to work everyday and giving your all for the people of Texas.

With gratitude,

Wayne Christian

Chairman

Railroad Commission of Texas