

**From:** [Vickie Smith](#)  
**To:** [Rules Coordinator](#)  
**Subject:** Don't Tread on Texas Oil and Gas!  
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October 14, 2024 @ 08:32pm  
Don't Tread on Texas Oil and Gas!

Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the current draft of the oil and gas waste rule revisions currently posted with the Secretary of State for public comment. Unlike the heavy-handed federal regulations coming from the Biden administration's Green New Deal agenda, Texas has developed responsible, effective practices that allow our oil and gas industry to flourish while protecting our environment.

Unfortunately, special interest groups are attempting to pressure the Railroad Commission into adopting Biden-style restrictive regulations on oil and gas operators as part of this rule change. These groups disguise their campaign as an effort to protect landowners and the environment, but their real goal is to keep oil and natural gas in the ground, jeopardizing jobs, economic growth, and the affordable energy Texans depend on.

The oil and gas industry is vital to Texas. It provides hundreds of thousands of jobs, fuels our economy, and ensures access to reliable and affordable energy for all Texans. We must not let the radical agendas of dark-money special interest groups like 'Commission Shift' and 'Don't Waste Texas' undermine private property rights, our way of life, and our state's prosperity.

I urge you to continue prioritizing the needs of the people of Texas by maintaining a balanced approach to regulation—one that safeguards our environment and groundwater without choking the lifeblood of our economy. Please hold the line against these efforts and ensure Texas continues to be a leader in energy production.

Thank you for your leadership and for keeping Texas strong.

Sincerely,  
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