



**Texas
Independent
Producers and
Royalty Owners
Association**

FEDERAL LAWMAKERS ADVANCE BILL TO BOOST DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS DRILLING

On Wednesday, November 8, members of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources passed a bill that would overhaul several of the nation's energy policies to promote expanded exploration, development, and production of oil, gas and wind resources. H.R. 4239, the "Strengthening the Economy with Critical Untapped Resources to Expand American Energy Act" or "SECURE American Energy Act," not only would streamline permitting processes to make federal lands a more attractive place to develop energy resources, it also strives to prevent excessive and overly burdensome federal regulatory management practices against the energy sector. Under the legislation, states with established regulatory programs could earn approval from the Interior secretary to assume control of specific oil and gas development responsibilities for federal lands within that state's borders. Further, the SECURE Act also would reform existing regulatory frameworks for offshore energy development on America's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), increasing access to federal energy resources by opening all areas of the OCS, which could create an estimated 840,000 new jobs and generate over \$200 billion in revenues.

"It is encouraging to see legislators from both parties come together to craft policy that would stimulate responsible energy production and add more good paying jobs to our economy – the SECURE American Energy Act proves that this is possible," commented Congressman Vicente González (D-TX), an author of the bill. "Job creation, economic growth, and responsible energy production are things we can all agree on."

U.S. Representative Henry Cuellar (D-TX) also sponsored the federal legislation that allows responsible energy development while promoting economic growth. "The United States is a world leader in both the production and development of conventional and renewable resources," Cuellar said. "The SECURE American Energy Act will further invest in the future of our nation's energy landscape by making sure federal lands are also available for responsible energy development. In doing so, it will create good jobs for American families and increase revenues for local, state and federal governments."

The oil and gas industry has extended praise and support of the SECURE American Energy Act, as it would adopt commonsense regulatory reforms for producers and allow the nation to take advantage of the many economic benefits generated from domestic energy development. The bill delivers many measures that the industry has pushed for in recent years, from delegation of regulatory oversight to states to preventing the implementation of excessive federal regulations and blocking bureaucratic overreach that intrudes on energy development.

TI PRO members interested in learning more about this policy can visit: <http://bit.ly/2ym25MQ>.



APACHE CORP. TO DONATE 288,000 TREES THROUGH COMPANY'S ANNUAL TREE GRANT PROGRAM

Last month, Apache Corp. announced the company is awarding over 288,000 trees during the 2017-2018 planting season as part of Apache's annual Tree Grant Program. This year, the company is partnering with 48 nonprofits across three states to donate trees, which beautify the environment, provide habitat for wildlife and even help to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. "Now in its 12th year, our tree program has provided substantial support to important conservation projects in many of the communities where we operate. The program has also been a great way for our employees, including me, to get out and volunteer in our communities and make a lasting contribution," said Apache CEO and President John J. Christmann IV.

Altogether, since the program launched in 2005, Apache's Tree Grant program has donated more than 4 million trees to nonprofits in 17 states. The company also this year will plant a special tree on the grounds of its Houston office in honor of employees and community members who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

We chose a damn interesting industry to which we devote our time and energies. I love sports metaphors, and our industry lends itself well to my love as a game where we spend a lot of time in the red zone, both offensively and defensively, and the rules change constantly, and scoring isn't really consistent. Maybe it's not the best spectator sport, but one that is a hell of a lot of fun to play. Like rugby. Or softball.

Are we seeing a base level realignment of oil prices right now? Oil prices are never linearly related to supply/demand, but also have a lot of subjective risk baked in or out of whatever the current base level is. Events alter these prices above and below that base level, but the gravitational constant is to that base level. Until it isn't. That's when the base level starts to float up or down finding its next sticking point. The news from Saudi Arabia alone these last few days injects enough risk to untether the current base level.

Mona Sutphen of Macro Advisory Partners (disclosure: Sutphen is a board member of both Drillinginfo and Pioneer) is amongst the smartest and most well connected people I know and hugely knowledgeable about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

I offer some of her thoughts here about Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MBS) measures this past weekend:

"...Represents a purge that is virtually unprecedented in an Arab monarchy."

"After the political marginalization of his rivals, MbS is now seizing their assets."

"...strengthens MbS politically, but potentially weakens the outlook for the economy and private investment."

"...we do NOT expect an organized countermove..."

"...seems likely to usher the end of the Al Saud family as a large, collective political entity, and establish a new core dynasty in which only a few select relatives of MbS play a role..."

"Many Saudis perceive the larger Al Saud family as an entitled, corrupt caste that has been a drag on the national economy without contributing anything to it."

"... (this) follows MbS's political marginalization of the Wahhabi clergy."

If this doesn't change the risk metrics of the world, MbS has virtually declared war on Iran on Monday, and, oh yeah, MbS is the major driving force for an Aramco IPO. It seems he is getting that commodity price boost he so desperately needs for a successful IPO, as well as the nearly \$1 trillion (equal to 2-3 trillion Saudi Riyal) of assets that he is seizing or can be seized from the purged princes.

And we benefit as Texas producers and royalty owners.

A good read of this changing world we live in is Peter Zeihan's *"The Accidental Superpower: The Next Generation of American Preeminence and the Coming Global Disorder."* In it, he outlines the importance of unconventional hydrocarbons and hydraulic fracturing to the continued relevance and dominance of the U.S. as the strongest economy on Earth. Then you can bore your kids and spouse with wisdom they neither want nor care about. But I do. Whether they recognize it or not, YOU keep this world a better place for everyone. Don't ever forget it.

Best,

Allen Gilmer



Allen Gilmer

INDUSTRY HONORS CHAIRMAN TODD HUNTER WITH LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION AWARD



TIPRO's President Ed Longanecker visited Corpus Christi on Thursday, November 2nd to present Chairman Todd Hunter (R-Corpus Christi) with a Legislative Champion Award on behalf of the Texas oil and gas industry and the Joint Association Education Initiative. Hunter, who is in his ninth term serving as a state representative, is currently chairman of the Calendars Committee in the House of Representatives, as well as a member of the House County Affairs Committee and the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.

During his remarks last week, Longanecker praised the chairman for his work during the 85th Legislative Session this past year and his continued efforts to support the state's healthy business climate. Chairman Hunter expressed his appreciation for the award and reinforced the importance of the Texas energy sector to the state economy.

TIPRO Calendar of Events

<p>DECEMBER 13, 2017 HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.</p>	<p>JANUARY 10, 2018 HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 7-9, 2018 HOUSTON — 2018 NAPE Summit, George R. Brown Convention Center For info, call: (817) 847-7700.</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 14, 2018 HOUSTON — IPAA/TIPRO Leaders in Industry Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. Houston Petroleum Club. For info, call: (202) 857-4733.</p>
---	--	--	---

TEXAS REGULATORS APPROVE PLANS FOR WELL PLUGGING AND SITE REMEDIATION EFFORTS

During an open meeting held November 7th at the Texas Railroad Commission, all three Railroad commissioners signed off on the agency's 2018-19 well plugging plan, which over the next biennium will allow the commission to plug up to 3,000 orphan wells in the state of Texas. The commission says that an estimated \$67 million will be needed for the plan, though no taxpayer dollars will be used to cover the cost of the well plugging activities. Instead, industry fees from the Oil & Gas Regulation & Cleanup Fund (OGRC) and the Texas Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) will be used by the commission to pay for the efforts. The majority of operators handle well plugging without assistance from the state, plugging a total of 10,325 in Fiscal Year 2017, according to the Railroad Commission.

The commissioners this week also approved plans for site remediation activities in Fiscal Year 2018, using \$9 million from the OGRC to complete 259 cleanup projects.



RAILROAD COMMISSION UPDATES DRILLING PERMIT QUERY

The Railroad Commission has announced a new feature to its *Drilling Permit Query* that provides an additional column called Stacked Lateral Parent Well DP#, effective as of Monday, November 6, 2017. The commission reports that for oil and gas operators logged into the commission's online system, the new column will display the drilling permit number of the record well, also known as the parent well, for a horizontal well that is classified as stacked lateral. The column will be sortable, allowing all the stacked lateral wells with the same parent well to be displayed together, notes the Railroad Commission. If you have any questions regarding these updates, contact the commission at drillingpermits-info@rrc.texas.gov or call (512) 463-6751.

RAILROAD COMMISSION TO HOST WORKSHOP ON PROPOSED REGULATORY FEE FOR PIPELINES

The Texas Railroad Commission is hosting a Pipeline Fee Workshop at the commission's headquarters in Austin on Tuesday, November 28th to review the creation of a pipeline safety and regulatory fee as required under House Bill 1818 - the Railroad Commission Sunset bill - passed by the legislature earlier this year. House Bill 1818 amended Section §81.071 of the Natural Resources Code to authorize the Railroad Commission to establish pipeline safety and regulatory fees for permits or registrations for pipelines under the agency's jurisdiction. As provided under the statute, fee amounts should be sufficient to support the commission's pipeline safety and regulatory program costs including permitting or registration costs, administrative costs, and salary costs.

Through November 28, 2017, the commission will accept comments on potential rule amendments to 16 Texas Administrative Code §3.70 regarding the creation of and method to calculate the agency's pipeline safety and regulatory fee. TIPRO members interested in submitting feedback may email comments to rulescoordinator@rrc.texas.gov.

GOVERNOR ABBOTT GOES TO THE HILL TO ADVOCATE FOR HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF FUNDING

Texas Governor Greg Abbott met with members of Texas' congressional delegation in Washington D.C. in early November to urge the United States Senate and House to back federal funding for the repair of public infrastructure damaged in Texas caused by Hurricane Harvey and the flooding that followed. Congress is expected to consider the next appropriation in the upcoming weeks.

While in D.C., Governor Abbott also met with White House and Office of Management and Budget officials to discuss the government's response to this natural disaster that devastated Texas communities in late August.

TEXAS LT. GOV. DAN PATRICK ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO TEXAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Six state senators have been appointed by Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick to the Texas Legislative Council, a panel which assists the legislature in drafting proposed bills, conducting investigations and studies, and preparing reports for the legislature. The lieutenant governor's appointees to the council include: Senator Bryan Hughes (R-Mineola), Senator Charles Perry (R-Lubbock), Senator Royce West (D-Dallas), Senator Sylvia Garcia (D-Houston), Senator Dawn Buckingham (R-Lakeway) and Senator Konni Burton (R-Colleyville).

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE OFFERS NEW SITE HOSTING WEBINARS ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ISSUES

The office of the Comptroller has created a new dedicated website for stakeholders interested in viewing webinars online that relate to research efforts on the status of endangered or threatened species in the state of Texas. Through the new webpage, available under the comptroller's "Economic Growth and Endangered Species Management Division" website, individuals can view recorded presentations from researchers and experts provided on projects funded by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Members of TIPRO may access the site by visiting: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/species-economy/webinars.php>.

ON STATEWIDE TOUR, TEXAS COMPTROLLER VISITS CHENIERE ENERGY'S SOUTH TEXAS FACILITY

As part of his statewide 'Good for Texas Tour: Manufacturing Edition,' Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar was in South Texas last Wednesday, November 1st to visit Cheniere Energy's facility in Corpus Christi. In recent weeks, the comptroller has been visiting cities around the state to tour Texas manufacturing plants and meet with local officials to discuss the economic impact of the state's manufacturing industry.

"Cheniere Energy represents Texas' chemical product manufacturing subsector, which is absolutely essential to our daily needs, as it creates goods such as household cleaning products, beauty products, pharmaceuticals and diagnostic substances, agricultural fertilizers and much more," said Comptroller Hegar. "The basic chemical manufacturing industry, makers of petrochemicals, industrial gas and ethyl alcohol is highly concentrated in Texas. In fact, in 2016 two-thirds of all U.S. petrochemical production jobs were in Texas. Chemical manufacturing employment has remained stable since early 2015, alleviating the effects of job losses in other manufacturing subsectors caused by declining crude oil prices."

In conjunction with the tour, the office of the comptroller has put out a new study reviewing the economic impact of the state's manufacturing industry. In all, the comptroller's office reports that Texas manufacturers were responsible for approximately 3 million direct and indirect jobs in 2016, as well as \$210.3 billion in exports and \$225.8 billion in GDP. The average annual wages for direct jobs in manufacturing is nearly \$74,000, much higher than the statewide average salary of \$54,000.

RESULTS FROM TEXAS' 2017 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

Texans have authorized ratification of all seven amendments to the state constitution that appeared on this year's statewide ballot. The amendments were previously passed by the state legislature earlier in the year during the 85th Legislative Session, after gaining approval of a super majority, or two-thirds of the vote in each chamber of the legislature. Now, with the approval of Texas voters, the constitutional amendments will be implemented. A summary of the amendments can be found in the October 26th issue of *The TIPRO Target* newsletter.

EPA SHAKES UP SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARDS, ESTABLISHES NEW GUIDELINES FOR ADVISORS

In a new directive issued Tuesday, October 31, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt established new guidelines for advisors serving on EPA Federal Advisory Committees (FAC). "Whatever science comes out of EPA, shouldn't be political science," Administrator Pruitt said. "From this day forward, EPA advisory committee members will be financially independent from the agency."

According to EPA calculations, in just the last three years, members of three of EPA's 22 FACs – the Science Advisory Board (SAB), Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) and the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) – received upwards of \$77 million in direct EPA grant funding while concurrently serving on these committees. Now, scientific counselors shall be independent from EPA, with no member of any of EPA's federal advisory committees being in receipt of EPA grants, either as principal investigator or co-investigator, or in a position that otherwise would reap substantial direct benefit from an EPA grant.

Further, to promote fresh perspective on regulatory policies advanced by the EPA, the agency is encouraging and promoting the inclusion of new candidates to its FACs, hoping to avoid prolonged and continuous service with regular rotation of committee membership. Advisors also will be selected from different states and EPA regions. And, the agency will allow for increased participation by state, tribal and local governments, in the spirit of cooperative federalism and recognition of the unique experience of officials from other levels of the government.

"Strengthening independence from EPA, increasing state, tribal and local government participation, and adding geographic diversity and fresh perspectives will improve the integrity of EPA's scientific advisory committees," observed Administrator Pruitt.

Days after Administrator Pruitt unveiled his new rules for EPA FACs, the agency announced new membership rosters for several key science advisory panels. After reviewing hundreds of qualified applicants, the EPA has selected experts throughout the environmental stakeholder community, including from academia, industry, and state, tribal and local officials. Of note, Dr. Michael Honeycutt from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has been appointed as chairman of the SAB, which provides advice to the administrator on broad scientific matters. "I am pleased and honored to bring my knowledge and experience to this prestigious panel," said Honeycutt, who is the director of the TCEQ's Toxicology Division. "It is my goal to direct the other members of the SAB to bring sound science to the reviews that we will make in advising the administrator."

The sweeping changes to the agency's advisory panels have sparked some criticism -- a group of 62 elected officials from the U.S. House expressed concerns in a letter sent November 7th to Administrator Pruitt. Specifically the congressmen acknowledge that they "are alarmed" by requirements established under the agency's new directive, noting in their letter that "it would be an arbitrary and unnecessary limitation to disqualify to preeminent experts from serving on these advisory boards because they have received EPA grants to conduct the research which has made them experts." In their outreach to the leader of the EPA, federal lawmakers urged Pruitt to maintain rigorous standards and technical expertise of the science advisory boards at the EPA. "It is in our country's best interest to ensure that EPA regulations have a sound scientific basis, and to ensure this we must have objective, independent, highly-qualified scientific advisors."

Others have welcomed the actions from Administrator Pruitt to ensure the integrity of the EPA's science committees.

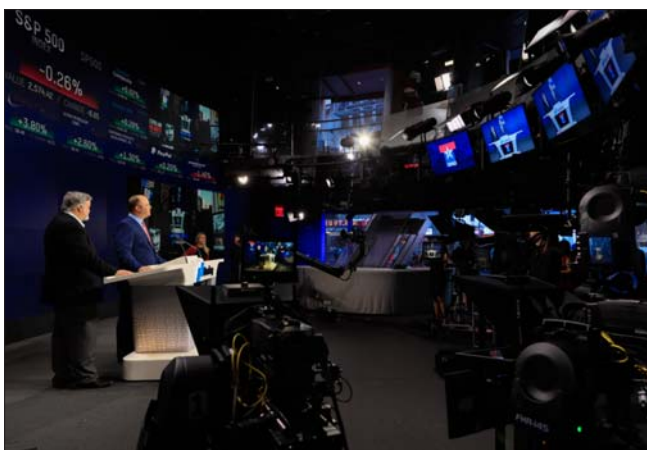
HOUSE GOP INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO OVERHAUL AMERICA'S TAX SYSTEM

Republican congressmen have proposed new comprehensive legislation that seeks to implement long-sought-after tax reform in the United States. The tax bill unveiled on November 3rd looks to simplify the national tax code and deliver the “most transformational tax cut in a generation,” according to the authors of the bill. After the introduction of the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* last week, U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan commented, “For too long, hardworking Americans have suffered under a tax code that is too unfair, too complicated, and too expensive. That ends this year. The *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* will simplify the code so you can file your taxes on a form the size of a postcard. Under our plan, typical middle-class families will see bigger paychecks and receive a \$1,182 tax cut. That means greater take-home pay and more money in your pocket. Working with the Senate and President Trump, we are going to make good on our promise to deliver relief to the American people. It's time to get this done.” Texas Congressman Kevin Brady, chairman of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee, echoed the same sentiment. In a statement, Chairman Brady said, “Today marks the beginning of the end of our nation’s broken tax code. The *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* will deliver real tax relief to Americans across the country – especially low- and middle-income Americans who have been struggling for far too long to earn a raise and get ahead. Our legislation is focused entirely on growing our economy, bringing jobs back to our local communities, increasing paychecks for our workers, and making sure Americans are able to keep more of the money they earn.”

For now, under the proposed tax bill, it appears that tax provisions important to U.S. independent oil and gas producers, including intangible drilling costs (IDCs) and percentage depletions, remain safe. Soon, a similar bill is expected to be introduced in the U.S. Senate. The White House is hoping to see tax reform policy successfully passed by the end of the year.

TIPRO CLOSES NASDAQ STOCK MARKET IN NEW YORK CITY

The Texas Independent Producers & Royalty Owners Association participated in the closing bell ceremony of the NASDAQ Stock Market in New York City on Monday, October 30, 2017. Executive leaders of the association used the opportunity to draw awareness to the significant economic contributions provided by the Texas oil and natural gas industry. Below see a few photos from the event:



CONGRESSIONAL PANEL PRESS SOCIAL MEDIA LEADERS ON RUSSIA'S INFLUENCE TO U.S. ENERGY MARKET

Most weeks, the United States' investigation over Russia's possible meddling into the nation's 2016 election makes headlines, but what is less talked about is Congress' efforts to also understand attempts by Russian entities to impact public opinion on the U.S. energy industry. The U.S. House Science, Space and Technology Committee is in the midst of reviewing anti-fracking and anti-fossil fuel campaigns that were spread through social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Alphabet Inc., to try to influence the U.S. energy market. This past September, the committee requested documents and information from these companies relating to these matters. Since then, the companies have been actively engaged with committee staff in planning to provide information necessary in this investigation.

Citing additional evidence brought to light on Russian efforts to try to manipulate the U.S. energy market, last week, Congressman Lamar Smith, chairman of the committee, again reached out to the executives of the social media companies on the issue. The chairman's letter, sent Tuesday, October 31, 2017, reads: "Congress has a responsibility to bring transparency to social media when their content affects important matters of American public policy... On October 23, 2017, [it was] reported that Instagram—a social media platform owned by Facebook—was utilized by Russian antagonists to influence the U.S. energy market... This recent revelation confirms the committee's suspicion: Russia has exploited American social media platforms in an effort to influence the U.S. energy market." The committee has requested information or a briefing on the status of production of relevant documentation by November 14, 2017.

TEXAS CONGRESSMEN ANNOUNCE RETIREMENT FROM U.S. HOUSE IN 2018

Several notable members of the Texas congressional delegation have decided to retire from Congress after their current terms are completed next year. U.S. Representative Lamar Smith, R-San Antonio, is retiring from Congress at the end of his term, the congressman announced at the start of November. Representative Smith, who is the current chairman of the U.S. House Science, Space and Technology Committee, said that now "seems like a good time to pass on the privilege of representing the 21st District to someone else." Smith, who was first elected to Congress in 1987, is the Ranking Republican of the House Judiciary Committee, and also serves on the House Homeland Security Committee.

Like Smith, U.S. Representative Jeb Hensarling, R-Dallas, announced last week he also will retire from Congress next year after completing eight terms in the U.S. House. Hensarling, who represents the 5th District of Texas, is the current chairman of the House Financial Services Committee. With the end of his term as chairman at the end of next year, Hensarling said the time seems right for his departure. "Today I am announcing that I will not seek reelection to the U.S. Congress in 2018. Although service in Congress remains the greatest privilege of my life, I never intended to make it a lifetime commitment, and I have already stayed far longer than I had originally planned," the representative said on Tuesday, October 31.

And lastly, U.S. Representative Ted Poe, R-Houston, revealed this week that he also will not seek re-election to the U.S. House of Representatives next year. "I am grateful for the honor and privilege to represent the best people in America, Texas's Second Congressional District. Thanks to the good Lord, I'm in good health, but it's time for the next step," Poe said on Tuesday, November 7.

Other districts in Texas will see a change in representation in Congress after the next election as well. Previously, U.S. Representative Sam Johnson, R-Richmond, has said he intends to retire from politics when his term is done in 2018. Meanwhile, U.S. Representative Beto O'Rourke, D-El Paso, is also vacating his seat to run for the U.S. Senate.

ICYMI: TIPRO'S NEW FALL/WINTER UPSTREAM TEXAS MAGAZINE NOW OUT!

Be sure to check out the new issue of TIPRO's Fall/Winter *Upstream Texas* magazine! Inside, members can read about the state's advanced seismic monitoring system, TexNet, that is helping inform Texans on seismic events in regions around the state. Additionally, within the publication, find an outlook on future U.S. oil and gas production and prices. This issue of *Upstream Texas* also features profiles of state Representative Brooks Landgraf, Texas Water Development Board Chairman Bech Bruun and Parsley Energy CEO Bryan Sheffield. The magazine is available online at: <http://bit.ly/2iwVc8t>.



TCI
THRELKELD & COMPANY
INSURANCE

We insure your survival so you can ensure ours.

A TEXAS COMPANY SERVING TEXANS
FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS

800.256.6400 • www.threlkeld.com

HILCORP ENERGY FOUNDER JEFFERY HILDEBRAND OFFERS MILESTONE DONATION TO UT-AUSTIN

Jeffery Hildebrand, member of TIPRO and the founder, chairman and CEO of Hilcorp Energy, and his wife Mindy have donated \$25 million through the Hildebrand Foundation to the Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering in The University of Texas at Austin's Cockrell School of Engineering. The university announced this week that in celebration of the gift, the department will be renamed in honor of the Hildebrand family. "This \$25 million is a remarkable investment in the future of the Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering, the Cockrell School of Engineering and the study and exploration of new energy solutions. It will provide significant resources for student and faculty innovation, along with cutting-edge teaching and research related to the oil and gas industry," commented UT President Gregory L. Fenves.

In a joint statement, Jeffery and Mindy Hildebrand said, "The Hildebrand family is honored to be a part of this great institution and knows that if anything is transformative, it is a University of Texas education. It is our hope that this gift will inspire the next generation of engineers, explorers and innovators to pursue an education and career in the petroleum industry. UT has the No. 1 petroleum and geosystems engineering department in the country, and this gift will provide the necessary resources to ensure its future prominence and influence in academia and industry in the world."

Jeffery Hildebrand received his master's degree in petroleum engineering and bachelor's degree in geology from UT Austin, and he is currently vice chairman of The University of Texas System Board of Regents and serves on the Cockrell School of Engineering Advisory Board. He also was named a Distinguished Engineering Graduate of the Cockrell School in 2005 and a Distinguished Alumnus of the Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering in 2013. Mindy Hildebrand is also a proud Longhorn, having received her bachelor's degree in management from UT's McCombs School of Business. She also serves on the McCombs School Advisory Board and the University Development Board.

UT's renamed Hildebrand Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering Chairman Jon Olson praised the Hildebrands' investment in the university, saying, "This gift will create a new sense of excitement about our program, enabling us to further capitalize on our strengths of oil and gas teaching and technology development and positioning us to continue attracting the top talent from around the world to tackle the energy challenges of the future."

NEW SITE LAUNCHED TO EDUCATE AMERICANS ON ENERGY PRODUCTION AND THE CLIMATE

A new website launched this week to debunk deceptive claims advanced by climate change advocates seeking to shut down American energy production. Eidclimate.org, managed by Energy In Depth and the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), is a one-stop-shop online offering all the best facts, figures and collaterals on natural gas's climate and environmental impact. The source supplies scientific data on how natural gas development has been a leading reason why the United States has successfully reduced its carbon dioxide emissions in recent years, and explains how the industry is reducing methane emissions even as oil and gas development continues to expand. The site also provides clarity on how activists have been using climate issues to harass energy companies. Using the guise of climate change, many do not realize that anti-fossil fuel campaigns like the "Keep It In the Ground" movement are a dangerous threat to America's energy companies, America's energy sector, and American families, describes the site.

U.S. GOVERNMENT RELEASES SCIENTIFIC REPORT LINKING HUMAN ACTIVITY TO GLOBAL WARMING

A new scientific assessment supported by 13 federal agencies has cited human activity as the leading cause of global climate change. "Global annually averaged surface air temperature has increased by about 1.8°F (1.0°C) over the last 115 years (1901–2016). This period is now the warmest in the history of modern civilization," the government report reads. "The last few years have also seen record-breaking, climate-related weather extremes, and the last three years have been the warmest years on record for the globe. These trends are expected to continue over climate timescales. This assessment concludes, based on extensive evidence, that it is extremely likely that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases, are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century. For the warming over the last century, there is no convincing alternative explanation supported by the extent of the observational evidence." Findings in the report are based on a large body of scientific, peer-reviewed research, as well as a number of other publicly available sources, including well-established and carefully evaluated observational and modeling datasets.

UNITED STATES BECOMES ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO REJECT PARIS CLIMATE ACCORD

The nation of Syria announced at a United Nations meeting this week that it will sign the Paris climate agreement, making the United States the only country in the world now to oppose the global pact aiming to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Over the summer, President Donald Trump decided to reverse the nation's prior commitment to participate in the international agreement and instead withdraw the United States from the Paris accord because it was disadvantageous towards the United States. This week it was also reported that President Trump would not be invited to participate in a climate summit planned for next month in Paris, to take place on the anniversary of the 2015 Paris climate accord with a theme of "Make our Planet Great Again." More than 100 world leaders were expected to be included. According to an official involved in the planning of the summit, those heads of state being invited are "leaders who are especially committed to applying the Paris accord."

Connect with
TIPRO



Members are encouraged to connect with the oil and gas community by following TIPRO on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Each outlet represents a unique way to join the conversation and receive updates on what is happening, as it happens.



@T_I_P_R_O



Texas Independent Producers &
Royalty Owners Association



Texas Independent Producers &
Royalty Owners Association

THE TIPRO TARGET



**Texas Independent
Producers &
Royalty Owners
Association**

With more than 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.

919 Congress Avenue, Suite 1000
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: (512) 477-4452
Fax: (512) 476-8070
www.tipro.org
