

Frank & Sims Price Ranch

Sterling City, TX 76951

Chairman Larry Gonzales

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Railroad Commission Sunset Advisory Commission Review

Chairman Gonzales,

My son and I ranch in the Sterling City area of Texas, we have been very fortunate to have received the 2013 National Environmental Stewardship Award presented by: Dow Argo Sciences, National Cattleman's Foundation, USDA-NRCS and US Fish & Wildlife Services. I was recognized by Texas Tech College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources as the 2015 recipient of the Gerald W. Thomas Outstanding Agriculturist award for Agriculture Production. I am also a director for the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

Most of the proposed changes the Sunset Advisory Commission staff has suggested to the Railroad Commission are quite good and would make the commission much more effective. With changes it is imperative that the Commission enforce the rules on a consistent basis. I have personally witnessed the Railroad Commission apply existing rules (Texas Administrative Code: Title 16, Part 1, Chapter 3, Rule 3.1) on a very arbitrary basis. Case in point -- one oil company is required to remove old abandoned power lines after the well is inactive for 10 years, while another 'higher profile' politically active company is given a pass. All the while the RRC staff gives the surface owner a totally different story about the two companies --very evasive. The same is true for removing abandoned flow lines and other well related equipment. Another example of poor rule enforcement is some buried pipeline owners are very diligent in marking and maintaining the surface area of their lines. Other pipeline owners are allowed to not maintain their lines as to marking and clearing right-of-ways, creating considerable safety issues. The point is, changing the rules of the Commission may be good, but enforcing those rules consistently is key to a successful new Texas Energy Commission, provided the name is actually changed.

I have kept my comments very short, recognizing you have limited time. However, if you would like more detailed information from my 'Rancher-Landowner' perspective, I would be happy to provide more detail.

Sincerely,

Frank S Price