

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, August 22, 2016 7:56:34 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2016 11:07 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: RAILROAD COMMISSION TEXAS RRC

First Name: Margaret

Last Name: Shugart

Title: Treasurer

Organization you are affiliated with: Big Bend Conservation Alliance

Email:

City: Alpine

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:

Supported Recommendations:

- 1) The name change and especially for the reasons stated, so that voters understand the important roles of the commissioners. In addition to including "Energy" to the name, the word "Mining" should also be considered.
- 2) Transferring gas utility regulation to the PUC, including the building of gas pipelines. The same processes in place for other energy transportation, such as electrical lines, should be in place for gas pipelines, especially those for public hearings, public input and public scrutiny.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

- 1) There should be a prohibition on the Railroad Commission of Texas from having any direct or indirect interest in any regulated entity, as well as prohibition on corporate campaign contributions 120 days before and 120 days after a general election, as there is in other states. Contributions should also be capped to \$2500. There are several examples of Commission candidates receiving large donations for elections directly from the corporations they are hired to regulate. The conflict of interest needs to be halted for the Commission to operate efficiently and effectively.
- 2) There should be an easily accessible, centralized database available to the public to search permits, complaints, investigations and enforcement actions, such as fines and penalties. What is available is difficult to locate and runs very slowly, sometimes taking up to a year to report an issued permit.
- 3) The Commission needs to extend its responsibility of oversight. There should be a permit process to build a pipeline, not just to operate one. And it should be accompanied by environmental oversight and safety inspections, at a minimum.
- 4) Like gas pipelines, oil pipelines should also be treated like other public

utilities, allowing for public hearings, input and scrutiny during the process.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree