



By Robert Osborne

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Being chairman of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers has taken my personal viewpoint of energy politics from a 10,000 foot elevation right down to street level. What I see now is an opportunity to right many of the wrongs that have been forced into Texas oil fields by numerous misguided federal policies. My directions to our Alliance staff have been: identify, analyze, and respond at every opportunity to every punitive regulation as we fight for our members and our industry.

Your Alliance team is getting it done. Let me share with you some of our initiatives. At a local level, we have an ongoing and strong student membership program with well over 100 student members from multiple Texas colleges and universities. The students receive NewsLine, our monthly newsletter, as well as other important information. We also speak at their campuses, and invite them to our various events whenever possible. In addition, our virtual intern program continues to grow. The Alliance typically carries three to four students per year working under the direction of our Alliance Executive Vice President John Tintera. The overall goal is to provide career traction to the next generation of oil men and women, who will continue the Texas energy legacy in the years to come.

At the State level, we supported and ensured the passage of SCR 26 during the past legislative session, which was almost unanimously passed. This legislation put Texas on the record for wanting state control of our industry oversight. We also supported the Railroad Commission's (RRC) Sunset Review and ensured they had an adequate budget that DID NOT RAISE ANY FEES OR COSTS to our members. The Alliance worked with our House and Senate members, highlighting that to raise fees would be the equivalent to raising taxes. That message resonated with our legislative elected leadership. As a result, your fees at the RRC will not be going up.

For federal work, we leveraged our FRED Committee (Federal Regulatory Energy Delegation) into a program that allows the Alliance a strong voice as we fight to roll back federal overreach in methane and Quad O regulations, Waters of the US, Endangered Species, attacks on hydrofracturing, and other efforts of a hostile, anti-oil and gas lobby determined to regulate all of us out of business.

But the job is far from done. In this "Time of Trump", we have more opportunities, but no guarantees. As I enter my second year as the Alliance chairman, I have asked our staff to double down on their efforts to exploit the gains we have made, and continue to fight the battles we have not yet won. With a lot of grace, your support, and a little luck, I think we will get there. God Bless Texas.