



## RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

P.O. Box 12967  
Austin, Texas 78711-2967  
(512) 463-7131  
FAX (512) 463-7161

**WAYNE CHRISTIAN**  
COMMISSIONER

January 9, 2019

Governor Greg Abbott  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Governor Abbott,

Thank you for your bold leadership on energy and environmental issues, as both Governor and Attorney General. Our state has led the United States to energy security because of the Texas regulatory model. For the first time in decades, the U.S. has surpassed Saudi Arabia and Russia as the top producer of oil and gas in the world, meaning we are able to export across the globe and are less dependent on other nations for energy.

I understand a coalition of climate catastrophists has written your office with a series of outlandish predictions about climate change with ridiculous speculation on the potential impact to Texas. These activists repeatedly imply that climate change is "settled science" and that 97 percent of scientists agree that the main reason for global warming is man-made greenhouse gases. However, real science is never "settled" and 97 percent of scientists don't agree. The United Nations climate models are constantly being "updated" or modified, and wildly irresponsible climate predictions — like the starvation of 4 billion people during the 1980s — have not happened. This is far from settled science.

As a state, we must be thoughtful when crafting new rules and regulations to ensure we maintain a consistent, predictable business environment. The United States lowered its carbon emissions more than any other country in the world last year. That's the ninth time this has happened in the last eighteen years. This reduction is a direct result of technological advancement, such as fracking and horizontal drilling, and the increasing use of natural gas, not government regulation. Punitive policies, such as carbon-taxes or mandated emission reductions do little for the environment, while increasing the cost-of-living for American families. It's all risk and no reward.

Please feel free to use our office as a resource as you navigate these issues during the session. Congratulations on another four years of service to our state, I am excited to work with you on these important energy issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne Christian".

**Wayne Christian**  
Texas Railroad Commissioner