



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

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WAYNE CHRISTIAN
COMMISSIONER

July 1, 2019

Commissioner Mike Morath
Texas Education Agency
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Creation of Energy Cluster Designation for Texas Public Schools

Dear Commissioner Morath:

In Fall of 2017, I was proud to launch the Texas Energy Education and Workforce Development Initiative bringing together members of industry, academia and government to make sure we are preparing the workforce of tomorrow. At one of our meetings, Texas Education Agency staff discussed creating an Energy Cluster designation for Texas high schools. I support this because I know that the energy industry in Texas needs skilled workers for its wide variety of job opportunities. Texas students, whether on a college path or not, deserve the opportunity to study our Texas energy resources and get the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in these high-paying jobs.

Last year, the United States surpassed Saudi Arabia and Russia to become the largest producer of oil and gas in the world. According to the International Energy Agency, the United States will account for 70% of the rise in global oil production and a 75% of the expansion in LNG trade over the next five years. Texas will be leading this charge, providing much-needed diversity to global oil supplies and improved national security.

Texas led the nation in oil and gas jobs last year, with 352,371 Texans employed, an increase of 26,706 jobs from 2017. Companies are hiring for jobs that have salaries that are on average 132 percent more than other private sector jobs, but from welders to truck drivers to petroleum engineers, they cannot fill them fast enough. I want to ensure our Texas students are first in line for the new jobs Texas is creating. The proposed Energy Cluster opens the door for them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Christian", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wayne Christian
Chairman
Texas Railroad Commission