

BARRY A. WILLIAMSON

April 8, 2020

Via E-Filing

The Honorable Chairman Christian
The Honorable Commissioner Craddick
The Honorable Commissioner Sitton
Railroad Commission of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78711
RRCconference@rrc.texas.gov

Re: **Oil & Gas Docket No. OG-20-00003167: IN RE: MOTION FOR COMMISSION CALLED HEARING ON THE VERIFIED COMPLAINT OF PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES U.S.A. INC. AND PARSLEY ENERGY INC. TO DETERMINE REASONABLE MARKET DEMAND FOR OIL IN THE STATE OF TEXAS**

Chairman Christian, Commissioner Craddick, and Commissioner Sitton:

The Railroad Commission (“Commission”) is the premier oil and gas regulatory agency in the United States. As such, the Commission has the duty to Texans to lead on the issue of proration. Without question, the Commission has the authority to prorate. The issue is whether the greatest and most sudden demand drop in history warrants Commission intervention.

The Commission has and at this time needs to continue to keep their focus on the duty to protect natural resources and jobs for Texans. Accordingly, at a minimum the Commission should make the decision to prorate or not based on detailed evidentiary information. The decision could be based on the hearing on April 14th or based on detailed evidentiary hearing or hearings in the future. In the past, the Commission has traveled to Midland, Houston, Dallas, Kilgore and Amarillo to hear directly from stakeholders in each local on important matters.

The Commission has already heard about pipeline operators not having the ability to transport oil to market based on lack of capacity and demand. There are numerous “bottlenecks” throughout industry that the Commission needs to fully understand and consider in their decision to prorate or not. Allowing individual relationships, contracts, pipelines and operators to dictate the structure of widescale shut-ins of production is inefficient and wasteful.

The Commission as the preeminent agency in the United States needs to lead and decide from the top. Whatever decision the Commission reaches the Commissioners should consider their duty to protect our natural resources, jobs of hundreds of thousands of Texans, and schoolchildren that rely on oil revenues for their education.

Thank you for taking the time to review my comments. I will not be joining the meeting on April 14th. I wish you all the best of luck and help in these difficult times.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Barry Williamson
Barry Williamson

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