

## MINUTES

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, June 13, 2024

10:00 AM

Capitol Extension, Room E1.028

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Pursuant to a notice posted in accordance with Senate Rule 11.10 and 11.18, a public hearing of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development was held on Thursday, June 13, 2024, in the Capitol Extension, Room E1.028, at Austin, Texas.

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#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Brian Birdwell, Chair  
Senator Judith Zaffirini, Vice Chair  
Senator Carol Alvarado  
Senator César Blanco  
Senator Bryan Hughes  
Senator Lois Kolkhorst  
Senator Kevin Sparks

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Kelly Hancock  
Senator Borris Miles

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The chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. There being a quorum present at 10:14 AM, the following business was transacted:

The following members arrived after the roll was called:

Senator Carol Alvarado  
Senator Bryan Hughes  
Senator Lois Kolkhorst

The chair laid out the following committee charge:

- **Preserving Texas History:** Review the historical site district designation and how such designations contribute to cultural preservation, tourism, and community identity. Report on what impact this historical designation would have on property values, site preservation, and educational opportunities within certain districts including, but not

limited to, the San Jacinto Battlefield, the Alamo complex, Washington-on-the-Brazos, and Goliad.

The following individuals provided invited testimony. (See attached witness list)

Texas Historical Commission

*John Nau, Chairman*

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

*Rodney Franklin, Director of State Parks*

General Land Office

*Jeff Gordon, General Counsel*

City of San Antonio

*Lori Houston, Deputy City Manager*

The following individuals provided public testimony. (See attached witness list)

The chair laid out the following committee charge:

- **Protecting Local Taxpayers:** Examine current use and imposition of local option hotel occupancy taxes. Makes recommendations to enhance accountability and increase transparency in the use of these funds.

The following individuals provided invited testimony. (See attached witness list)

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

*Will Coughlin, Director, Data Analysis and Transparency*

Texas Hotel and Lodging Association (THLA)

*Justin Bragiel, General Counsel*

Texas Travel Alliance

*Amanda Garcia, Chief Public Affairs Officer*

Texans for the Arts

*Fiona Bond, Board Chair*

The following individuals provided public testimony. (See attached witness list)

The chair laid out the following committee charge:

- **Overcoming Federal Incompetence:** Consider the impact to the Texas economy from federal interference including, but not limited to, restricting liquified natural gas exports, supply chain limitations, a net-zero carbon agenda, and other air emission provisions. Report on what impact these federal interferences will have on the Texas economy and workforce, and make recommendations to minimize the damage to Texas.

The following individuals provided invited testimony. (See attached witness list)

**Panel One: State Agencies**

Attorney General's Office

*James Lloyd, Deputy Attorney General for Civil Litigation*

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

*Jon Niermann, Chairman*

*Kelly Keel, Executive Director*

Railroad Commission

*The Honorable Wayne Christian, Commissioner*

General Land Office

*Mark Havens, Deputy Land Commissioner*

**Panel Two: Industry Stakeholders**

Texas Oil and Gas Association (TXOGA)

*The Honorable Todd Staples, President*

Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO)

*Ed Longanecker, President*

Texas Association of Manufacturers (TAM)

*Tony Bennett, President*

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Texas Alliance of Energy Producers

*Karr Ingham, Interim President*

The following individuals provided public testimony. (See attached witness list)

There being no further business, at 4:35 PM Senator Birdwell moved that the Committee stand recessed subject to the call of the chair. Without objection, it was so ordered.

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Senator Brian Birdwell, Chair

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Jennifer Trevino, Clerk