



DAVID PORTER
TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

June 8, 2015

Texas Congressional Delegation
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Congressional Member,

I would like to bring your attention to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) meeting held at its Vienna headquarters last week. From that gathering, nations that make up the bulk of the oil cartel's production powers (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates) continued their current course of action to increase OPEC's market share at the expense of Texas workers and industry by maintaining their flood of more than 2.5 million barrels per day above market demand.

[One recent article](#) reported, "OPEC said it wanted to 'restore market equilibrium' with stable prices. That means flooding the market so oil drops to a level that forces higher-cost producers to scale back, ultimately pushing prices back up." Texas' Oil & Gas (O&G) industry has successfully increased overall production with the help of a streamlined regulatory environment. However, OPEC's choice to flood the market with crude is a clear and direct effort to stifle successful American drilling – using artificially cheap fuel as their weapon.

As you know, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) is Texas' energy authority and is charged with regulating the state's oil and gas industry. As the senior member of the RRC, I can say with absolute certainty that the key to America's security and prosperity is achieving energy independence. A strong energy industry makes America less dependent on O&G producing countries that actively support terrorism and allows our allies to rely less on oppressive and authoritarian regimes like Russia and Venezuela.

Critical to achieving energy security is leveling the playing field against the likes of OPEC through Congressional repeal of the decades old prohibition on crude oil exports, and allowing Texas and U.S. oil producers to compete on the international free market. Studies show that domestic energy production would increase along with Gross Domestic Product, job growth, and capital investment, all while reducing our national trade deficit.

This is a solution that benefits every Texan, as can be seen in the support of a resolution expressing as much from virtually every [Texas lawmaker and Governor Greg Abbott](#). I am proud that our Texas congressional delegation is [leading the way](#) toward making this happen.

Thanks to the shale revolution, we no longer live in an age of energy scarcity. Rather, we are in a new era of energy abundance – an era we must fully embrace if we are to sustain the Texas economy and lead the way in global energy security.

OPEC's actions present a very serious threat to our national and our state economies so it is urgent and vital you do everything within your power to end the oil export ban.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Texas as we work together to develop a solution on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Porter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Porter
Texas Railroad Commissioner