

TPA LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH SERIES

The oil and gas industry, of which pipelines are an integral part, is vital to the economy of Texas and the nation. TPA has reached out to Texas state legislators to inquire about the importance of the industry to the residents and businesses of their districts.

Here, Sen. Phil King (R-Weatherford), explains how the midstream sector is so important to his district. Sen. King proudly serves the citizens of SD 10, a sprawling district with a mixture of urban, suburban and rural interests across eight counties. He serves as vice chair of the Senate Committee on Business & Commerce. He previously served as State Representative and Parker County Justice of the Peace. He was just elected as chairman of the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute. He also serves on the National Board of Directors for the American Legislative Exchange Council and was the 2015 National Chair. Sen. King was a police officer in Fort Worth for 15 years, a reserve officer for 26 years and continues to serve in the Texas State Guard.

A practicing attorney and small business owner, he resides in Weatherford where he and his family have been longtime members of Trinity Bible Church. Phil and his wife Terry are the proud parents of six children and 17 grandchildren. Sen. King earned his B.A. and M.B.A. from Dallas Baptist University and a law degree from Texas A&M University School of Law (formerly known as Texas Wesleyan University School of Law).



SEN. KING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PIPELINE INDUSTRY TO HIS TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT, THE STATE AND THE NATION

Q. The recently published [TXOGA Annual Energy & Economic Impact Report](#) outlines the extraordinary role that oil and natural gas play in our state and national economy, accounting for \$24.7 billion in state and local taxes and state royalties – the highest total in history. How important is the industry to the overall Texas budget, as well as to your district?

A. The oil and gas industry is critically important to the Texas economy in many ways. First, state and local taxes and state royalties generated by the industry help pay for essential functions, such as funding for schools, universities, roads, bridges and other items in our state budget. As mentioned above, the Texas oil and natural gas industry paid \$24.7 billion in state and local taxes and state royalties, the highest in state history.

On the national level, Texas oil and gas provides the economic fuel that has helped our nation become energy independent, a monumental accomplishment with significant national security and foreign policy implications. Because of Texas' leadership in achieving national energy independence, our country is no longer solely dependent on foreign nations for our energy needs.

One of the most troubling developments over the past few years is the effort by some companies – often under pressure from “woke” activists – to cut ties with traditional oil and gas firms. That's why, last session, I authored a bill in the Texas House that prevents Texas from investing in or doing business with firms that cut ties with the energy industry. This bill, signed into law by Gov. Abbott, sent a strong message to both Washington and Wall Street that if you boycott Texas energy, then Texas will boycott you.

Q. As vice chair of the Senate Committee on Business & Commerce, what are your priorities for addressing the great demands on the state's energy infrastructure with changing winter weather patterns, increased population growth and hundreds of new energy-hungry businesses moving to the state?

A. First, it's important to recognize that the growing demands on our state's energy infrastructure are a result of people from across the country moving here for the unparalleled opportunities we provide. That's a testament to the pro-business, fiscally responsible stewardship we have worked to maintain over the years. Our policies have positioned Texas as an economic powerhouse that attracts jobs and capital and

corporate relocations. We provide an environment that encourages entrepreneurs to take risks, build companies and reach their dreams.

Now the challenge becomes ensuring that we have the energy and power needed for the growing Lone Star State, and that's where my focus will be on the Business & Commerce Committee. After the actions taken in the last legislative session following Winter Storm Uri, we continue to explore various options to further reform and strengthen the Texas grid. Central to this must be the addition of gas-fired electric power, and that cannot occur without Texas pipelines supplying that clean fuel source.

- Q. Do you support policies that encourage the building of an essential pipeline infrastructure to deliver the oil and natural gas products that lead to lower energy prices for consumers, including for electricity and gasoline?**
- A.** When we speak of the infrastructure needed to ensure Texas remains an economic powerhouse, pipeline infrastructure must be part of that discussion. Before coming to the Senate, in the Texas House I represented Parker and Wise Counties. This area was in the heart of the Barnett Shale, where new fracking technologies first originated in the early 2000s. The growth and economic prosperity of our communities was driven in no small part by the Barnett Shale boom. After those hydrocarbons were extracted from over 20 counties across North Texas, pipelines provided the means by which these products were safely transported for processing and distribution.
- Q. Is there any other relevant information you would like to share?**
- A.** As I begin my first term in the Texas Senate, I look forward to being part of the solution that will ensure that my kids and grandkids never have to be concerned about whether the lights will be on or their home is heated during the coldest winter days. I appreciate the opportunity to work with members of the Texas Pipeline Association toward achieving that goal.