

Kellie Martinec

From: Michael Bullock <Michael.Bullock@house.state.tx.us>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2014 4:28 PM
To: rulescoordinator
Cc: Stacie Fowler
Subject: Comments from Rep. Simpson
Attachments: 20140825 RRC Pipeline Permit Comments.pdf

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached comments from Representative David Simpson in regards to the \$3.70 rule changes. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

For Texas and Liberty,

Michael Bullock

Legislative Director
Office of David Simpson
Texas State Representative
House District 7
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DAVID SIMPSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT SEVEN

August 25, 2014

Via Electronic Mail: rulescoordinator@rrc.state.tx.us
Rules Coordinator
Railroad Commission of Texas
Office of General Counsel
P.O. Box Drawer 12967
Austin, TX 78711-2967

Re: §3.70: Amend T-4 Pipeline Permit Procedures

Honorable Commissioners:

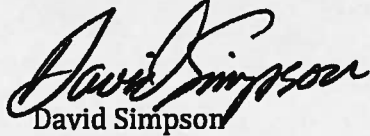
I read with great interest the proposed rule changes relating to Pipeline Permits Required. I appreciate the actions the Commission has taken thus far to provide greater accountability to the pipeline permitting process. As the agency charged with overseeing the safety and permitting of pipelines you have a great responsibility to find the balance between reasonable regulations of our abundant natural resources and the protection of our greatest resource – private property.

I am encouraged that the Commission has deemed it necessary for those applying for a T-4 permit to provide more substantial evidence supporting their claim as a common carrier, a gas utility line, or a private line. Though I do find it troubling that neither public comments nor a public hearing is being required and offered as a venue for those whose property is or will be effected by the approval of a pipeline. I encourage you to provide an opportunity for written comments to be submitted, as well as a public hearing process to be established to help provide greater accountability to the permitting process.

I would also suggest that the Commission require notices to be sent out to those landowners who have a pipeline on their property, when the pipeline operator changes products or proposes to do so. Landowners have the right to know what is being transported across their property, especially if the product being transported is more hazardous, and the land was acquired through eminent domain.

Again, I thank you for the work you have done to improve the process and provide greater accountability. As you continue the rulemaking process and in future deliberations, please keep in mind those whose property is and will be effected by these permits. Often times controversy and frustration can be avoided by having an open dialogue between parties. Currently that venue does not exist, and it should. Every Texan who owns property should be given the ability to comment on a process that could affect their land.

For Texas and Liberty,



David Simpson