

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EDITORIAL: STOP DRILLING FOR A FLOWER?

It is unfortunate when unelected bureaucrats allow for special interest groups to dictate domestic policy. Far too often groups like the Sierra Club and Green Peace will lobby agencies such as the EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife to accomplish their radical goals.

These groups use laws, like the Endangered Species Act, as a tool to put a stop to energy production, farming and ranching. By doing so, they are quite literally destroying the Texas Miracle in front of our eyes.

Just this week, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife services announced that two species of flowers in East Texas would be listed as "endangered". This listing could have long term effects on the ability for Deep East Texas to continue its efforts in oil and gas exploration and absolutely devastate the ability for hardworking men and women to make a living in the area.

The energy sector in Texas is number one in the nation, and largely the reason our state has fared so well, while so many others have hurt during the recession.

This industry directly employs close to a half million Texans with well-paying jobs averaging ~\$120,000 per year! Additionally, vast amounts of other jobs are created indirectly by the energy sector -- this is estimated to be 22 jobs for every one working in oil and gas!

Another huge asset energy production brings to Texas is their tax-dollars, close to \$12.1 billion from the severance tax and another \$7.1 billion in property, business and sales tax in 2012 alone!

Because we are blessed with these abundant natural resources, we have been able to pay for things like education, transportation and water without increasing taxes and fees on hardworking Texans. This means more money in everyone's pocket.

If the environmentalists on the left have it their way, the booming energy industry will come to a screeching halt. This would be devastating for our state's economy and overnight unemployment would increase dramatically.

The Federal government has tried to stop production in West Texas because of a lizard, along the Brazos due to some minnows and now in East Texas with some flowers. Enough is enough.

This is why I am running for Texas Railroad Commissioner -- to protect the Texas Miracle and ensure that our state remains a world leader in energy production for generations to come. Texas needs someone who is not afraid of a fight and is willing to show the Federal Government that this is not how we do business in Texas.