

STATEMENT BY

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BEFORE THE HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

ON AMERICAN ENERGY EXPANSION: "Improving Local

Economies and Communities' Way of Life."

February 16, 2023

Chairman Duncan, Ranking member Degette and members of this committee, I would like to thank you and it is an honor to be a witness at this hearing that has so much meaning and positive impact in the world. I would like to say a big thank you to Congressman Pfluger for his leadership, service, and dedication to District 11. I am Adrian Carrasco, I am the chairman of the board of directors of the Midland Hispanic

Chamber of Commerce, President/owner of Premier Energy Services and Board of Trustee of Midland Community College. The MHCC has over 30 plus years advocating, partnering, and supporting small minority businesses in Midland County. When I say minority, it is not just color, it is women owned businesses and veteran owned businesses. As many organizations suffered during COVID, The MHCC did as well and we had to totally re-brand the MHCC to ensure that we continued the great work of the past and create opportunity now and for the future. The mission of the MHCC is to successfully lead, develop, and advocate for our members while encouraging the advancement, economic growth, and social development of the Hispanic and Minority Community. The MHCC provides commerce opportunities through quality of education, quality of business, quality of jobs, and quality of life. We all know that small businesses play a key role in increasing commerce, providing jobs, and bringing economic development within our community. It is crucial that we continue to provide business education, funding opportunities for business growth,

and guidance for positive growth. As communities like Midland grow, we look to entrepreneurs to develop businesses that meet the need of the community and its growth. Through programs like our bettering your business at breakfast, we have been able to educate new and existing small minority businesses on how to obtain a credit line, how to build cost effective web sites, and how to promote the business and its services. The MHCC builds connections between its members and the business community. With our quarterly business mixers, we give current members and future members the opportunity to network and develop business relationships for growth. It is important that we serve as a liaison to assist in making small minority business more marketable, ensure stability, and lasting prosperity. Due to the positive impact of the oil and gas industry on local communities, this has given aspiring entrepreneurs the opportunity to fulfill dreams of owning a business. We have seen home bakers open restaurants and bakery shops. Restaurants expand their businesses into second locations and catering services to the oil field drill sites. Licensed commercial

electricians have expanded services into the oil and gas sector and cosmetologists and barbers have opened their own shops. I applaud the great work of the Midland Development Corporation and Kevin Dawson with Maybe Midland/Odessa on their successful efforts of bringing new brands of restaurants, family entertainment centers, aerospace and aviation related businesses to Midland. Midland is home to over 6,200 business establishments and it drives over 100,000 jobs. Oil and Gas in the Permian is an economic driver not only here but throughout this nation and the world. MHCC will continue to support our local minority and small business owners so they can provide economic growth and commerce in our community.

Premier Energy Services is a proud member of the MHCC, and my company is celebrating its 7<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. I grew up in Kermit, TX and I actually started working in the gas plant industry at 18 years old and was able to continue working in the summers to help pay my way through college. I have over 14 years' experience in the production field

of the oil and gas industry. I am proud of my 64 employees and without them my wife and I could not continue to grow and provide exemplary services to our customers. Premier focuses on new construction and maintenance of well and battery facilities, environmental, remediation, reclamation work, earthwork, and vessel repair. I thank companies like Diamondback Energy, Pioneer Natural Resources, Elevation Resources, Walsh and Watts and others that trust in me and my company to get the job done. Over the years, I continue to be impressed upon the innovation, the safety, and the commitment to the environment by these companies and all in this industry. The use of plastic lined facilities and berms is a true commitment to eliminating oil or produced water to fall directly onto the ground. The use of automation to monitor tank levels, well sites, and production facilities has allowed electricians to expand upon their knowledge and prevent overflow. I am often disturbed by the attacks that groups display against this very important industry. The oil and gas industry is very responsible and I get to see it firsthand. I challenge those that don't understand or go by

here say to come visit an oil well and facility site. All are invited to see the innovation, safety, and the importance of taking care of the environment. I commend the Texas Railroad Commission for being in the forefront of working with Oil and Gas Operators to provide clean oil and gas in Texas. Oil and gas operators and service companies have a positive impact on employment, building strong communities, and quality of life. I have seen my very own employees able to buy and qualify to purchase their first home, first new car, and give back to their churches and communities. I have witnessed one of my own managers recently become a citizen of the United States. Furthermore, I have provided opportunities for our contract lease operators to be hired on a permanent basis by oil producers which in essence will have access to more extensive training, benefits, and quality of life. As a trustee at Midland College, I understand the importance of work force training and career building. Community Colleges are looked to as being the best for training the workforce for industries within their communities.

I am proud to be a part of one of the best community colleges in the

nation. We are in the process of completing our state of the art Pre-K Academy that will accelerate the awarding of degrees for early childhood teachers to 3 years based on dual credit programs. This will help fill the shortage of early childhood teachers in our local and surrounding public school districts. Our Petroleum Professional Development Center continues to provide ce training for the oil and gas industry. We are currently in the design stage of a state-of-the-art CTE Facility that will provide training for various areas of industry in our area with vast emphasis on oil and gas. I encourage congress to work in unison to continue to embrace the oil and gas industry which brings employment, community drive, and a quality of life. I encourage congress to continue to find ways to fund community colleges in ways like no other because they will continue to be a strong avenue for diverse industry training, training in the healthcare field, and the service industries. I thank you again and I am looking forward to your questions and continued dialogue about the importance of oil and gas!