

The amount of flaring has grown alongside the increase in production, and I know that, generally, producers do not want to flare gas unless they must do so for legitimate reasons related to ensuring safe operations. However, just like in any industry, we must look for bad actors that seek to disregard permits limitations.

The Commission currently has sufficient authority from the legislature to curtail waste, and in some cases, flaring is just that – waste. We need to connect more natural gas wells to the market by facilitating the development of critical infrastructure and prevent waste. At this juncture, market demand has fallen, thus we must also look to reduce flaring through tougher enforcement and predictable permitting. Permitting that is clear and provides a uniform structure for flaring allowances. I believe that we should require precise locations for flaring activities, including GPS coordinates, so the Commission can work with its partners at TCEQ and the EPA to eliminate all unnecessary flaring.

I will work with industry and other advocacy groups to listen to the needs of both the people of Texas and the industry when addressing the issue of flaring. The need for more transport capacity is apparent and any barriers to building out that capacity should be removed. At the end of the day, flaring means the burning of a valuable resource. We must all work together to protect our environment while providing the tools for our vital oil and gas industry to operate safely and efficiently