



# RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

Commissioner WAYNE CHRISTIAN

April 24, 2024

The Honorable Brandon Creighton  
Chairman  
Higher Education Subcommittee  
440 Sam Houston Building  
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable John Kuempel  
Chairman  
Higher Education Committee  
Texas Capitol, EXT E2. 106  
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Universities & Colleges Teaching Eco-Terrorism Curriculum

Chairman Creighton & Kuempel:

I write concerning the safety of our oil and gas infrastructure, eco-terrorism and to make you aware of a troubling report in the *Washington Times*, "Opposition grows against publicly funded universities teaching students 'How to Blow up a Pipeline.'"

In the attached *Washington Times* article, it highlights that Ohio State University was preparing to offer a course teaching about 'the evils of fossil fuels and encouraging eco-terrorism.' The report details how the International Natural Gas Association of America flagged for Ohio Governor Mike DeWine that the one of the university's courses would be using the book, "How to Blow Up a Pipeline." Ultimately, Governor DeWine is looking into the matter and Ohio State claims that the course is no longer being offered. You'll notice, however, that universities in other states like Arizona, Illinois, and Washington do have courses on the subject.

This report is troubling to me as a regulator of Texas' oil and gas and as a trusted guardian of public safety. Like me, I'm sure you see in the news and on social media the rise in protests and demonstrations by radical environmentalists on 'climate change', whether its blocking traffic, destroying property or harassing politicians in public. This fear-based approach to influencing the public about 'climate change' is operating as a social contagion, and if something is not done to address it, I fear a truly bad actor may become radicalized and do something devastating.

"How to Blow Up a Pipeline" is a 2021 book written by radical environmentalist and Marxist, Andreas Malm. Malm's climate catastrophist, nonfiction manifesto argues that sabotage is the best form of 'climate activism' over pacifism or fatalism. The book was made into a 2022 movie by the same name, whose movie trailer features a group of radical environmentalists trying to blow up a pipeline in Texas and features concerning lines like, "if the American empire calls us

‘terrorists,’ then we are doing something right” and “they’ll claim this was violence and vandalism, but this was justified.”

While it’s just a movie, it is a story based in reality, offering a look into a frightening possibility. If you will, imagine a world with groups of eco-terrorists setting up homemade improvised explosive devices (IED) to oil and gas infrastructure across this state and nation. Now imagine what destruction and harm that would cause to people, supply chains, energy and power, water, food, and so much more. Many lives and livelihoods could be lost.

Malm’s book has inspired a new generation of radical environmentalists about the delusions of climate vigilantism, and it has had an impact from North America to Europe and beyond. Protestors have vandalized buildings, sabotaged construction sites, thrown soup at priceless works of art, glued themselves to seats at sporting events, blocked countless roads causing traffic, fought with police and more.<sup>1</sup> If the climate contagion fever spikes and spreads, I fear for the worst-case scenario.

As publicly elected leaders, our top priority is the safety and security of Texans. As the nation’s largest oil and gas producer, Texas has about 488,500 miles of pipelines, which are constantly monitored.<sup>2</sup> Because pipelines are a crucial piece of energy infrastructure, they always remain vulnerable, just look at the 2021 Colonial pipeline ransomware attack<sup>3</sup>. Thus, policy makers and regulators should always be looking at ways to harden our energy infrastructure, and I think the blindside to future eco-terrorist attacks is a hole that needs fixing. We must ensure Texas students aren’t becoming environmentally radicalized in our taxpayer funded educational institutions.

Students need to learn about fossil fuels and real-world energy, where it comes from, how it works, and most importantly how it creates a better world. Texas students don’t need to be brainwashed in class that oil and gas is evil, when our schools should be preparing them for the real world.

In 2023, the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) did the right thing by rejecting radical environmentalist propaganda on ‘net zero’ and ensuring our students learn the benefits of fossil fuels<sup>4</sup>. I hope that is the case with higher education as well.

As leaders in Texas higher education, I would encourage you to look into whether any Texas universities or colleges have curriculum teaching “How to Blow Up a Pipeline” or related eco-terrorism-based materials.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/apr/21/climate-diplomacy-is-hopeless-says-author-of-how-to-blow-up-a-pipeline-andreas-malm>

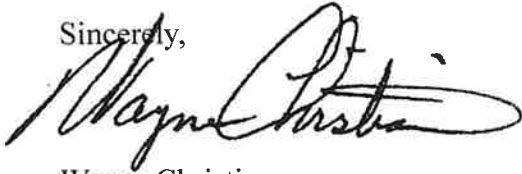
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.txoga.org/our-industry/infrastructure/#:~:text=Pipelines%20safely%20deliver%20oil%20and,on%20foreign%20sources%20of%20energy.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.axios.com/2023/05/08/colonial-pipeline-ransomware-attacks-unexpected-legacy>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/news/111723-christian-applauds-texas-state-board-of-education-for-supporting-fair-treatment-of-oil-gas-industry-in-textbooks/>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office for more information. I appreciate your attention to this matter and for your service to the people of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Christian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Wayne Christian  
Commissioner  
Railroad Commission of Texas

C:

Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick  
Senator Brian Birdwell, Chairman—Natural Resources & Economic Development  
Representative Craig Goldman, Chairman—Energy Resources