April 8, 2020

VIA EMAIL: RRCconference@rrc.texas.gov
Chairman Wayne Christian
Commissioner Christi Craddick
Commissioner Ryan Sitton
Railroad Commission of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78711
Submitted via www.regulations.gov

RE: DOCKET NO. OG-20-00003167; IN RE: MOTION FOR COMMISSION CALLED HEARING ON THE VERIFIED COMPLAINT OF PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES U.S.A. INC. AND PARSLEY ENERGY INC. TO DETERMINE REASONABLE MARKET DEMAND FOR OIL IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

Commissioners:

I respectfully submit these comments as an employee in the oil and gas industry. As such, I know this is an extraordinary time for my industry.

Although current conditions represent a significant challenge for our industry overall, state government intervention is not the solution. I believe Texas should remain a free market state.

Prorationing penalizes efficient producers and distorts free markets. Allowing the free trade of energy to continue benefits the U.S. economy by creating and supporting domestic jobs.

Should the current unprecedented market circumstances persist, it may be appropriate for the federal government to consider intervention in the interest of national security at some time in the future. However, I do not believe the Railroad Commission should engage in prorationing or curtailment of production statewide or in any region.

I appreciate this opportunity to comment and I do not wish to testify at the upcoming RRC meeting.

Sincerely,

Gretchen L. Whitaker
713.204.2100
Representing self, but also employee of ConocoPhillips