



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

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Senator Blanco Files Legislation to Support the Permian Basin

Austin, TX – Senator César J. Blanco has filed several bills this legislative session to support communities in the Permian Basin, strengthen Texas' energy economy, and address critical infrastructure needs in the Permian Basin, including Pecos and Reeves Counties – two of the top producing oil counties in Texas.

Since 2014, oil and gas severance taxes have funneled over \$35 billion to key state priorities, contributing \$9 billion to public education, \$13.3 billion to the state highway fund, and \$13.3 billion to the rainy day fund. Of that total, nearly 80% of these funds—around \$40 billion—originated from just 32 Texas counties, many located in the Permian Basin. However, the region faces significant challenges, like oilfield theft, which costs the industry an estimated \$30 million annually.

Senator Blanco's legislative priorities for the Permian Basin include:

- **Reinvesting in Energy Communities:** Senate Bill 1001, known as the Texas Strong Act, would return a portion of oil and gas severance taxes to energy communities to support infrastructure, education, and local services.
- **Combating Organized Oilfield Theft:** Cracking down on crime that threatens patchworkers and costs businesses and landowners millions.
- **Fixing Leaking Water Wells:** Securing funding to repair wells like Lake Boehmer in Pecos County to keep clean water flowing to residents.
- **Plugging Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells:** Protecting land and water from pollution and safety hazards by ensuring these wells are properly sealed.
- **Supporting Water Recycling and Reuse:** Advancing responsible solutions for produced water to conserve resources and protect groundwater.
- **Expanding Transmission for Electrification:** Ensuring the Permian Basin has the power needed to sustain growth and meet future energy demands.

Senator Blanco issued the following statement:

“The Permian Basin is the beating heart of Texas energy. The hardworking communities that power our state deserve investment, respect, and support. By addressing critical issues like oilfield theft, water conservation, and infrastructure needs, we are ensuring the Permian Basin remains a global energy leader for generations to come. Texas’ energy future is bright, and I’m committed to making sure that future works for every community that powers it.”

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