

TPA LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH SERIES

Craig Goldman (R-Ft. Worth) won election to serve his first term as Texas State Representative in November 2012. He represents District 97, which encompasses southwest Tarrant County. Before taking office, Chairman Goldman's career traversed both the business and political fields. For nearly a decade, he and his father ran a retail gourmet food and fine wine store in Fort Worth, while he worked on campaigns helping to elect Republicans to office at the local, state and national levels.

As a 5th generation Texan and a 4th generation native of Fort Worth, Rep. Goldman is extremely proud of his Texas roots. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas in Austin and is a partner in several real estate investment companies. He is Chairman of the Energy Resources Committee.



CHAIRMAN GOLDMAN ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PIPELINE INDUSTRY TO HIS TEXAS HOUSE DISTRICT, THE STATE AND THE NATION

Q. You are a proud Texan with deep roots in the community. Please tell us a bit more about yourself so that our TPA membership can get to know you better.

A. As my bio says, I am extremely proud to be a 5th generation Texan and 4th generation native of Fort Worth. My family has been part of the Fort Worth community for over 100 years, and we have certainly been an active participant in its growth to what it is now, the 13th largest city in the United States and many would say the best city to live and raise a family in Texas.

Q. What benefits does the oil and gas industry provide directly to your district?

A. The oil and gas industry generates high-paying, high-quality jobs in my district, as well as local tax revenue, including \$3.5 million to the county and \$7.4 million to school districts in fiscal year 2021. A prospering industry like the state's oil and gas industry also brings indirect benefits to our communities, producing two indirect jobs for every direct industry job.

My district, like all Texas house districts, profits from the overall success of the oil and gas industry in our state. In fiscal year 2021, the industry paid \$15.8 billion in state and local taxes and state royalties and deposited \$1.134 billion into the state's Rainy Day Fund, supporting education, transportation, healthcare, infrastructure projects that benefit all Texans. I am grateful for the oil and gas companies choosing to do business in our city and across Texas.

Q. In addition to being the safest way to deliver the hydrocarbons we rely on every day, do you see additional benefits to having a sufficient pipeline infrastructure? And what can be done to ensure that this vital resource can continue to be built in Texas and the nation?

A. Well-regulated pipelines are the safest method of transporting oil and gas from our state's energy producing regions into our communities and to the coast for processing and/or export. For some hydrocarbons, pipelines are the only method of transport.

The development of pipeline infrastructure has provided great economic investment across the state, as well an ability for the state's largest economic driver to continue to expand. If we want the Texas energy industry to grow, our pipeline infrastructure must grow along with it.

In order to ensure pipelines continue to be built in Texas, the legislature and regulatory agencies must prioritize business-friendly, pro-growth policies. We must develop and support the education and training of our technically skilled workforce. Companies doing business here should have skin in the game too; they must comply with state regulations and local ordinances, be good stewards of the environment and good neighbors in the communities in which they operate.

Q. America's energy independence is under threat due to several recent policies enacted by the current Administration. What are the benefits of energy independence and how can we protect this vital industry to Texas and the nation?

A. A thriving Texas oil and gas industry means a thriving U.S. oil and gas industry, and the potential for our country's energy independence, freeing us from reliance on unfriendly, foreign governments to fulfill our energy needs. Our energy independence also means a lesser impact on the U.S. economy when oil prices surge as less of our income goes overseas to pay for imported energy.

The biggest obstacle to our energy independence is unpredictable, excessive regulation that stifles industry growth. Texas has historically done a good job balancing environmental protection and economic development on the state level. Despite state-level efforts, overregulation at the federal level has consistently threatened the Texas oil and gas industry.

The Texas legislature has recently placed emphasis on requesting federal authority to regulate energy from within our own borders and should continue to look for areas where this is reasonable and practical.