

Rep. Pfluger
February 16, 2023
Midland Field Hearing Opening Remarks
As prepared for delivery

Thank you, Chairwoman Rodgers, Chairman Duncan, and to the rest of the Committee for coming to the Permian Basin. I am honored to welcome Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, to Midland and Odessa this week.

Midland, Texas is where our nation's energy debates should take place. And I'm excited that our community gets to showcase how the Permian Basin—and those in the audience today—are indispensable to America's economic and national security.

Under Chair Rodger's leadership, this Committee is committed to engaging with local communities to understand the challenges the American people are facing—many of which have been inflicted by this Administration. Thankfully, this city anchors the most important region that is poised to solve many of the critical issues facing our Nation, and our world.

If you listen to the White House, oil producing regions are greedy and unpatriotic, but nothing could be further from the truth. The story of the Permian Basin is one of innovation, unending entrepreneurial spirit, and community.

In fact, Permian Basin producers have a long history of rising to the occasion. Extraordinary cooperation between the US government and American oil companies is what helped win World War II, as Permian crude literally fueled General Patton's infiltration of the German border and eventually the defeat of Hitler.

It is often quipped that the war was won by an inch, and that's true. The US launched two incredible pipeline construction projects: the Big Inch and the Little Big Inch. The "Inch Lines" delivered more than 500,000 barrels of Permian oil per day to the Northeast for the war effort and helped successfully safeguard the precious commodity from U-boat attacks. These pipelines are still in use today.

Then again in 2008, another engineering feat allowed Permian Basin producers to rise to the occasion when hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling enabled the US to significantly increase production of oil and natural gas leading to what is infamously known as the shale revolution. This put OPEC on its heels—establishing US energy as an invaluable tool for our national security.

The impacts of the shale revolution have been undeniable. In 10 years, production in the Permian has grown from well under 1 million bpd to over 5.4 million bpd presently. That is over 40 percent of US production. Globally, the share of crude oil production coming from Permian has grown from 1 percent in '07, to nearly 6 percent right now. Just like it did throughout World War II, the Permian Basin is doing its part to make this country energy secure—helping fulfill Europe's needs as they wean themselves off Russian gas.

You cannot understand US energy dominance without visiting the Permian Basin or visiting with local leaders like we are today. I am excited for the Committee to hear from our excellent witnesses and discuss how current policies are affecting their operations.

It is time for Congress to follow the Permian Basin's lead and rise to the occasion. Thank you, and I yield back.