

COMMISSION SHIFT >>>>>>ACTION

Testimony on HB 4572 Relating to the regulation by the Railroad Commission of Texas of certain pits used for the storage and disposal of oil and gas waste.

Provided by Julie Range

Policy Manager of Commission Shift Action

Before the House Energy Resources Committee

April 14, 2025

Esteemed Chairman and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Julie Range, Policy Manager of Commission Shift Action, the advocacy partner of Commission Shift, and we **support HB 4572.**

Texas has over 400,000 active and inactive oil and gas wells, each with a reserve waste pit that holds the salty water, oil, carcinogens like benzene, and naturally occurring radioactive materials that come up during drilling operations.

With the rise of unconventional oil and gas development, these pits have grown in size to hold the produced water that comes from the well. If not properly constructed or managed, the pit contents can threaten nearby creeks or wells, or be consumed by people or livestock.

Last December, the Railroad Commission revised its waste pit rules, and over 400 people asked for stronger reserve pit regulations. They requested enhanced siting and construction standards, and landowner consent prior to burying waste on site. Establishing sensible requirements for these pits prevents landowners from having to fight to be compensated when leaching salt and hazardous waste contaminate their water or render the soil unusable.

The legislature is investing billions of dollars to develop new water sources, so let's protect the

freshwater we currently have. HB 4572 is a smart step towards that goal. Thank you, and I'm happy to answer questions.