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**Sierra Club Statement On Texas House Passing Railroad Commission Sunset Bill HB  
1818 On Second Reading**

AUSTIN, Texas - Today, the Texas House of Representatives passed on second reading the Railroad Commission Sunset bill, HB 1818, by Rep. Gonzales (R-Round Rock), but did not adopt amendments supported by Sierra Club and many others. Chief among these were changing the name of the agency, requiring that enforcement, complaint, and inspection data be put online, raising maximum fines, and limiting political contributions.

Unfortunately, due to a desire of the bill's author, Energy Resources Committee Chair Drew Darby (R-San Angelo), and Speaker Straus (R-San Antonio), to keep any amendments off the bill that could impact the oil and gas industry, most amendments were withdrawn or tabled.

**In response, Cyrus Reed, Conservation Director of the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter, issued the following statement:**

"This is a very modest bill that barely counts as reform. There is some good in the bill on tracking enforcement practices, requiring a strategic plan and improving pipeline safety, but good amendments that would have improved the agency were rejected if they were opposed by the oil and gas industry. Once again, the Texas Legislature has showed that when it comes to oil and gas regulation, they are largely captive. We will work to improve the bill in the Senate and hope that the the Railroad Commission itself will take its job seriously with the tools it has."

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