



SIERRA CLUB

LONE STAR CHAPTER

To: The Honorable Craig Goldman, Chair
Members, House Committee on Energy Resources
Re: HB 2847 (Darby), Relating to the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas over and a study of the upstream production, pipeline transportation, and storage of hydrogen.

April 3, 2023

The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club is generally supportive of HB 2847, related to jurisdiction of hydrogen transportation and storage. With significant federal, state and private investment in hydrogen, and the proposed hydrogen hubs that are likely to be located in Texas, it makes sense to establish the regulatory framework for the movement and storage of this valuable resource, and assure that it is moved and stored safely.

We are also supportive of the creation of a “Hydrogen Production Policy Council.” We do however have two suggestions. First we would suggest that at least one of the members of the public have specific expertise on pipeline safety and environmental compliance and controls. While hydrogen burns cleaner than methane, it is still combustible, and there are still concerns with nitrogen oxide and other emissions depending on the fuel types. Further we would suggest that the Council be able to also consult with other state agencies like the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, since they will have a role in permitting hydrogen production facilities.

(c) The council is composed of:

(1) the commissioners; and

(2) nine members appointed by the commission to

represent as many different types of participants as possible.

including at least three representatives from the hydrogen

industry, and at least one representative not directly employed by the industry with specific expertise on safety, environmental compliance and environmental controls.

Add a new (g) such as,

(g) The council may collaborate with other state agencies with a role over the regulation of hydrogen, including but not limited to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the General Land Office.

While the Sierra Club favors the production of green hydrogen made from zero-carbon energy resources, we do have some concerns with how blue and gray hydrogen production may impact our climate and resources. Still, having a regulatory framework and policy council are good first steps toward a cleaner future.