

LOBBY WATCH



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A Shear Coincidence!

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Officials on Industry Take Can't Feel Those Quakes

Fracking Disposal Wells Can't Cause Earthquakes Any More than \$4.9 Million in Industry Cash Can Turn State Officials into Lap Dogs

The misnamed Texas Railroad Commission recently released a preliminary [study](#) concluding that an ExxonMobil subsidiary's fracking disposal well probably did *not* cause unprecedented seismic jitters to rattle the town of Azle in 2013. This exoneration follows a [conflicting report](#) by Southern Methodist University and the U.S. Geological Survey that identified the probable causes of the quakes as that Exxon well and another one operated by Enervest. (The Railroad Commission has yet to address Enervest's well.)

Folks in fracking-rattled and quake-rattled areas surrounding the Dallas Metroplex are too quick to assume a *causal* relationship between the industry's forceful injections of huge volumes of liquids into the ground and the unprecedented earthquakes that ensued beneath their feet. Even gullible "scientists" have fallen for such correlation-as-causation innuendo.

Coincidental correlations also have been abused abused to link carbon combustion to climate change and smoking to lung cancer.

Just as it fell to the industry-funded [Tobacco Institute](#) to refute smoking-cancer claims, the industry-funded Railroad Commissioners are taking a fresh look at fracking-quake claims. From 2010 through 2014 the three commissioners raised \$8.9 million in campaign cash. The very Energy & Natural Resources industry that the commissioners regulate generously supplied 55 percent of that amount (\$4.9 million).

Given the extent to which the energy industry already rocks their world, the commissioners are well qualified to assess fracking-quake claims.

The table on the next page lists the top 50 contributors to the three commissioners. Contributors hailing from the Energy & Natural Resources Industry helpfully appear in [green](#).

Railroad Commission War Chests (Jan. 2010 through Dec. 2014)

Commissioner	Total Raised	Energy & Nat'l Resources %
C. Craddick	\$4,029,487	53%
R. Sitton	\$2,989,277	52%
D. Porter	\$1,872,850	67%
TOTAL	\$8,891,614	55%

Top Contributors to Three Railroad Commissioners Since 2010 (Contributors Tied to the **Energy & Natural Resources Industry in Green**)

Amount	Contributor	Affiliation	City
\$625,937	Rep. Tom R & Nadine Craddick	State of Texas/Mustang Mud	Midland
\$398,195	Conservative Republicans of TX	Conservative Republicans of Texas	Houston
\$237,890	Syed Javaid & Vicky L Anwar	Midland Energy Inc	Midland
\$186,000	James L Davis	J L Davis Gas Consulting	Midland
\$159,468	Mickey L & R Renee Long	Westex Well Services	Midland
\$140,115	Kelcy L & Amy Warren	Energy Transfer Partners	Dallas
\$105,000	Chris Faulkner	Breitling Energy	Dallas
\$100,000	Trevor D & Janice Rees-Jones	Chief Oil & Gas LLC	Dallas
\$90,000	Good Government Fund	Good Government Fund	Fort Worth
\$87,000	James C & Paula A Henry	Henry Petroleum LP	Midland
\$82,648	Julia Jones Matthews	Dodge Jones Foundation	Abilene
\$82,500	Dian Owen Graves Stai	Owen Healthcare Inc.	Abilene
\$82,000	Parsley Coffin Renner LLP	Parsley Coffin Renner LLP	Austin
\$80,000	Trammell S & Margaret Crow Jr	Crow Holdings	Dallas
\$76,278	James D & Charlotte Finley	Finley Resources	Fort Worth
\$75,000	Donald E & Lynne Wood	Permian Enterprises	Odessa
\$75,000	Grass Roots Institute of TX	Grass Roots Institute of Texas (GRIT)	Arlington
\$70,000	TX Oil & Gas Association PAC	Texas Oil & Gas Association (TXOGA)	Austin
\$61,000	Atmos Energy	Atmos Energy	Dallas
\$60,000	Jack Wood	Western National Bank	Odessa
\$55,500	Frosty R Rhonda Gilliam Jr	Aghorn Energy	Odessa
\$50,500	Robert R Beecherl	Piedra Resources/Verdad Oil & Gas	Midland
\$50,000	Marshall S (Mackie) McCrea III	Energy Transfer Partners	San Antonio
\$50,000	Harold C Simmons	Contran Corp.	Dallas
\$47,500	Scott Douglas & Kim Sheffield	Pioneer Natural Resources USA	Irving
\$46,000	T Boone Pickens	BP Capital Management/Mesa	Dallas
\$45,500	A Leslie Ballard	Ballard Exploration Company Inc.	Houston
\$45,420	Gary & Beverly Martin	RJ Machine	Marble Falls
\$45,000	Al G Hill Jr	A.G. Hill Partners	Dallas
\$45,000	Charles 'Dick' & Amelia Saulsbury	Saulsbury Industries Inc.	Odessa
\$45,000	Ryan TX PAC	Ryan & Co.	Dallas
\$44,945	Loyd W Powell Jr	Cholla Petroleum	Dallas
\$40,000	Patrick J Moran	Moran Exploration	Houston
\$40,000	Timothy M & Terri L Dunn	CrownQuest Operating/Enerquest	Midland
\$40,000	Jeffery D & Mindy Hildebrand	Hilcorp Energy Company	Houston
\$36,000	Rosalind Redfern Grover	Redfern Enterprises Inc.	Midland
\$35,000	Anne W & John L Marion	Burnett Oil Co.	Fort Worth
\$35,000	Curtis W Mewbourne	Mewbourne Oil Company	Tyler
\$35,000	Elliott Roosevelt Jr	ER Operating / Santa Rosa Oil Co	Dallas
\$35,000	Chesapeake Energy	Chesapeake Energy Corporation	OK City
\$35,000	Spectra Energy Corp	Spectra Energy Corp.	Houston
\$34,530	Clayton W & Modesta Williams Jr	Clayton Williams Energy Inc.	Midland
\$34,000	Fasken Management LLC	Fasken Management LLC	Midland
\$33,975	Linda Cowden	Rancher	Midland
\$33,000	Blackridge Consulting LLP	Blackridge Consulting LLP	Austin
\$32,500	Energy Transfer Partners PAC	Energy Transfer Partners	Houston
\$32,500	William L Holmes	Mid States Operating Co.	Midland
\$32,500	Lissa Noel Wagner	Wagner & Brown, Ltd.	Midland
\$32,500	Walter Goldston 'Tad' Mayfield Jr	Goldston Oil Company	Houston
\$32,000	Jon Rex Jones	Jones Energy Ltd.	Albany