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OK Supreme Court Affirms Exclusive Statewide Oil & Gas Regulatory Oversight is Vested With OCC

Ruling provides regulatory certainty for Oklahoma's energy producers

Oklahoma City, Okla. – This afternoon the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled that the Oklahoma Corporation Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over oil and natural gas operations, siding with OKOGA in a case centered on Kingfisher County Commissioners attempting to ban the use of temporary water lines. OIPA-OKOGA president Chad Warmington issued the following statement:

“We applaud the court’s decision, which reaffirms the Oklahoma Corporation Commission has exclusive regulatory jurisdiction over oil and natural gas operations in our state. This is an important decision for Oklahoma’s energy producers and job creators, ensuring much-needed certainty and uniformity across Oklahoma’s 77 counties.

“A patchwork of local ordinances and regulations creates unnecessary confusion, thwarts innovative solutions, and threatens environmental protections and public health. Using temporary water lines is an industry-standard practice that has numerous environmental benefits, including reducing truck traffic and supporting water recycling efforts.

“Our members – who produce nearly all of Oklahoma’s oil and natural gas – have a long history of partnering with local leaders and host communities to ensure that we responsibly develop Oklahoma’s abundant energy resources. Today’s ruling ensures we can continue that collaboration with the regulatory certainty that our industry needs.”

The Court’s [order](#) today reads in part:

“Petitioner’s request for declaratory relief is granted. The Kingfisher County Commissioners’ ban of temporary oil and gas lines carrying produced water within county road easements is contrary to 52 O.S. Supp. 2015 § 137.1, and the Oklahoma Corporation Commission’s exclusive jurisdiction to regulate oil and gas operations as provided therein, and statutes vesting the Commission with exclusive authority to regulate the transportation and disposal of water.

“Further, a legal challenge to the reasonableness of a rule or regulation imposed by a municipality, county or other political subdivision concerning road use, traffic, noise and odors incidental to oil and gas operations within their boundaries shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.”

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About OIPA-OKOGA: *OIPA-OKOGA is the only trade association in Oklahoma that represents every segment of the oil and natural gas industry, allowing the industry to speak with one voice when advocating for the interests of our members, landowner partners, host communities and employees. Together, our goal is to enhance Oklahoma’s economy for future generations and be a destination for capital investment from the upstream, midstream and downstream segments of the energy industry.*

Media Contact:

Cody Bannister

Vice President, Communications

405-601-2899

cbannister@oipa.com