

Cop Perez - Belle Chasse Properties

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the Mineral Board today. Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. What I'm here to bring up before the Mineral Board is the plight, really, of the oil service industry in the State. What I'm here to suggest – I guess I really don't have to go through the horror stories of what is about to happen here in this State because we know what happened in the 80's and it's going to happen again. Probably, it's happening now, and, probably by this summer, we will start seeing all the bankruptcies, the shutting down of plants and facilities and the general turning into ghost towns of some of the mineral producing areas in our State where oil field service companies operate. In that regard, speaking to tax relief for oilfield service companies, I'm here to suggest today that oilfield service companies be afforded the same tax credit for their State income and State franchise taxes that oilfield service boat operators presently have. There's a present law (revised statute 47 -1702 Sections 9-11) that allow a State tax credit for ad valorem taxes paid on their boats. I'm here today to ask for your support in this legislative session and also to ask the Governor's support to consider this tax credit as a fairness measure also to all oilfield service companies. That's really what my suggestion is and it obviously would put some needed cash back into the service companies to maintain existing facilities and equipment to, hopefully, not end up in a bankruptcy situation as many did back in the 80's. Thank you for your consideration.