

Robert Gravolet - Louisiana Assessor's Association

Madam Chairman, Mr. Allerton, Secretary Caldwell, members of the Board. Thank you for allowing me to make some brief comments here today. I was part of a small group of assessors that met with the administration this morning on various ad valorem tax concerns and what I would like to do here today is just to reiterate some of the brief comments I made at that time for information and communication purposes. First, I would like to begin by saying as chairman of the Assessors Oil and Gas Committee, I do recognize and realize that the \$11.00 barrel oil with inflation is more critical than the declining price of oil in the mid 1980's. Based on the present Louisiana Tax Commission guidelines, we will encourage, we the Oil and Gas Committee, will encourage all assessors to grant economic consideration to companies who have wells that fall in the area categories of stripper, shut-ins, and incapable wells. We will also work with industry, Jim Porter, Don Briggs, the Louisiana Tax Commission Chairman Mackie Price, to, hopefully, develop some type of value consideration that will help, even the producing oil wells. We don't feel at this time that the producing gas wells are quite as critical of the situation. In closing, I'd like to say that I think you will find that all assessors are willing to sit down with business and industry on an individual basis especially when times are hard. We know, and feel sure, that if we can help the industry at this critical time, when this situation does reverse that we will get most of our revenues, the taxing bodies will probably receive most of those revenues in return. At this time I'll end my comments. If there's any questions that you may have of me, I'll be glad to try to answer them. Again, thank you for affording me this opportunity.