

Background On House Natural Resource Committee Hearing Witnesses 09/28/23

SUMMARY: The House Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources will host a legislative hearing on H.R. 1121 and H.R. 5616.

Tim Tarpley, President Energy Workforce Technology Council (Houston, TX)

- Tim Tarpley is president of an oil and gas industry association.
- Tim Tarpley's industry association represents oilfield services companies, including major, publicly traded oil companies like Halliburton and Baker Hughes.
- Tim Tarpley's publicly-traded members made huge profits while Americans paid high gas prices.
- Halliburton's CEO credited its billions of dollars in 2023 profits to "improved pricing," then the company boosted its stockholder dividends.
- Halliburton continues to be extremely profitable with its most recent earnings reports showing a "sixfold" jump.
- Another publicly traded member of Tim Tarpley's association saw a 108 percent increase in profits in 2022 because of "an improved pricing environment."

Greg Upton, Executive Director and Associate Professor of Research at Louisiana State University (LSU) Center for Energy Studies (Baton Rouge, LA)

- Greg Upton is a university professor with a long history of doing industry-funded research.
- Greg Upton's LSU department is funded in large part by the oil industry and does research projects for companies like Shell and TransCanada.
- Greg Upton's LSU department is directed and guided by an advisory board with oil industry representatives from ExxonMobil, Shell, and Chevron.
- Greg Upton has also worked concurrently for a for-profit consulting firm that also services the oil and gas industry, though he excludes that fact from his C.V.
- Greg Upton's private work has been funded by oil companies like Energy Transfer Partners to promote pipelines.
- Greg Upton took over \$40,000 from a utility company to write a report opposing net metering, relying on inaccurate numbers and implausible scenarios.
- Greg Upton's LSU department also gets research grant funding from federal agencies.

Chett Chiasson, Executive Director Port Fourchon (Fourchon, LA)

- Chett Chiasson runs the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, a terminal that services the offshore oil industry in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Port Fourchon provides service to offshore oil rigs that provide "nearly 20% of the nation's oil supply."

Tim Tarpley (Energy Workforce & Technology Council)

Tim Tarpley Heads An Oil Industry Association Whose Publicly-Traded Members Have Made Massive Profits During The Biden Administration While Consumers Suffered.

Tim Tarpley Heads An Oil Industry Association Representing Big Oil Corporations Like Halliburton That Have Made Huge Profits Since Biden Was Elected.

Tim Tarpley Now Works Directly For The Major Oilfield Services Corporations Whose Water He Carried As A Congressional Staffer.

The Energy Workforce & Technology Council Is An Oil Industry Association. “Energy Workforce & Technology Council is the national trade association for the global energy technology and services sector, representing more than 645,000 U.S. jobs in the technology-driven energy value chain. Energy Workforce works to advance member policy priorities and empower the energy workforce of the future.” [Energy Workforce & Technology Council, accessed [09/26/23](#)]

Tim Tarpley Spent Years As A Congressional Staffer Advocating For Oil Industry Priorities Like The Keystone Pipeline And Exporting American Oil And Gas. “Prior to joining the Energy Workforce & Technology Council, he served as Chief of Staff to Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX) and began his legislative career as an aide to former Congressman Mac Thornberry (R-TX). As a lynchpin of Congressman Poe’s staff for more than nine years, Tarpley worked on permitting the Keystone pipeline, ending the crude oil export ban and streamlining the permitting for LNG export approval.” [Energy Dialogues, accessed [09/26/23](#)]

One Of Tarpley’s Members Is Halliburton, A Major Oil Corporation That Made \$2.7 Billion In Profits In 2022 Thanks To What CEO Jeff Miller Calls “Improved Pricing.”

Halliburton Is A Member Of The Energy Workforce And Technology Council. [Energy Workforce & Technology Council, accessed [09/26/23](#)]

In 2022, Halliburton Had \$2.7 Billion In Operating Income, A 50% Increase Year Over Year. “Total revenue for the full year of 2022 was \$20.3 billion, an increase of \$5.0 billion, or 33% from 2021. Operating income for 2022 was \$2.7 billion, and adjusted operating income was \$3.1 billion, excluding impairments and other charges, compared to operating income of \$1.8 billion for 2021. ‘Halliburton’s execution in 2022 demonstrated the earnings power of our strategy, and I expect this earnings power to strengthen in 2023 and beyond. Both operating divisions delivered strong margins in the international and North America markets,’ commented Jeff Miller, Chairman, President and CEO.” [BusinessWire, [01/24/23](#)]

Early This Year, Halliburton Increased Its Stock Dividend By 33%. “Halliburton’s board of directors declared a 2023 first quarter dividend of sixteen cents (\$0.16) per share on the company’s common stock payable on March 29, 2023, which the organization highlighted was a 33 percent increase.” [RigZone, [01/25/23](#)]

July 2023 Headline: Halliburton Q2 Earnings Jump Nearly Sixfold, Beat Expectations. [Houston Chronicle, [07/19/23](#)]

Halliburton CEO Jeff Miller Said 2022 Was A “Terrific Year” In 2022 In Part Because Of “Improved Pricing.” “Turning to North America. We had a terrific year. Our performance demonstrated our strategy to maximize value in North America through capital efficiency, improved pricing, differentiated technology and alignment with high quality customers.” [Seeking Alpha, 01/24/23]

Tim Tarpley’s Member Company Ranger Energy Services Boosted Its Revenue By 108 Percent In 2022 Because Of “An Improved Pricing Environment.”

Matt Hooker Is On The Energy Workforce And Technology Council’s Board Of Directors. [Energy Workforce & Technology Council 990, signed [07/13/23](#)]

- **Matt Hooker Is COO Of Ranger Energy Services.** [Ranger Energy Services, accessed [09/26/23](#)]

Ranger Energy Services Saw A 108 Percent Increase In Revenue In 2022 In Part Because Of What Executives Call “An Improved Pricing Environment.” “The Company has continued to focus on cash flow generation underpinned by a capital efficient business model with strong operating leverage unlocked through the successful integration of newly acquired assets and businesses. During 2022, the Company grew revenue by 108%, or \$315.4 million, and produced incremental Adjusted EBITDA of \$66.7 million through improved asset utilization, as well as an improved pricing environment coupled with operating efficiencies. In 2023, the Company will continue to be focused on strong cash flow generation and expanding EBITDA margins through targeted market penetration efforts in our wireline and ancillary service lines, better operating efficiency through seasonal months and a continuous improvement mindset when approaching costs.” [Ranger Energy Services, [03/07/23](#)]

In Its Most Recent Quarterly Results, Tim Tarpley’s Member Baker Hughes Reported \$6.3 Billion In Revenue, Up 25% Year-Over-Year.

Baker Hughes Is A Member Of The Energy Workforce And Technology Council. [Energy Workforce & Technology Council, accessed [09/26/23](#)]

In Its 2023 Q3 Earnings Report, Baker Hughes Said Its Revenue Was \$6.3 Billion For The Quarter, Up 25% Year-Over-Year. “Baker Hughes Company (Nasdaq: BKR) (Baker Hughes or the Company) announced results today for the second quarter of 2023. [...] Orders of \$7.5 billion for the quarter, up 28% year-over-year. Revenue of \$6.3 billion for the quarter, up 25% year-over-year. Net income attributable to Baker Hughes Company of \$410 million for the quarter, up \$1,248 million year-over-year. Adjusted

net income (a non-GAAP measure) attributable to Baker Hughes of \$395 million for the quarter, up \$281 million year-over-year.” [Baker Hughes, [07/19/23](#)]

Baker Hughes Has A Seat On The Energy Workforce And Technology Council’s Board.

Matt Armstrong Is On The Energy Workforce And Technology Council’s Board Of Directors. [Energy Workforce & Technology Council 990, signed [07/13/23](#)]

- **Matt Armstrong Is An Executive At Baker Hughes.** [Matt Armstrong LinkedIn, accessed [09/26/23](#)]

Greg Upton (LSU Center for Energy Studies)

Greg Upton Is A University Professor With A History Of Doing Studies Funded By The Oil Industry.

Greg Upton Leads A Public University Research Center Takes Funding From The Big Oil Corporations Represented On Its Advisory Board.

Greg Upton Is Interim Director Of LSU's Center For Energy Studies, An Industry-Funded Research Center Whose Advisory Board Includes Voices From ExxonMobil, Chevron, And Shell.

Greg Upton Is A Research Professor And Interim Executive Director At Louisiana State University's Center For Energy Studies. “Dr. Greg Upton is Associate Research Professor at the Louisiana State University Center for Energy Studies. As of January 2023, he is interim executive director of the Center. His research interests are related to the analysis of economic, environmental and public policy issues in the energy industry.” [LSU, accessed [09/26/23](#)]

The Oil And Gas Industry “Dominates The School’s Center for Energy Studies.” “The oil and gas industry also donates heavily to Louisiana State University, and dominates the school’s Center for Energy Studies, which has consistently produced research that promotes industrial interests.” [Public Accountability Initiative, [01/11/18](#)]

LSU’s Center For Energy Studies Is Directed And Guided By An Advisory Council Made Up Of Oil Industry Representatives From Companies Like ExxonMobil, Chevron, And Shell.. “The Advisory Council is a mandated part of the Center's organizational structure. The Council includes representatives of organizations, companies, state government and general citizens that have a vested interest in energy policy and energy research. The Advisory Council provides research direction and guidance and frequently assists the Center in securing finances.” [LSU Center For Energy Studies, accessed [09/26/23](#)]

Greg Upton’s Center For Energy Studies Has Done Studies Funded By Big Oil Corporations Like ExxonMobil, Chevron, And Shell.

LSU’s Center For Energy Studies Lists Projects Funded By Shell, Entergy, TransCanada, Enable Midstream Partners, And The Oil Industry Lobbying Group The American Energy Alliance. LSU’s Center for Energy Studies maintains a list of externally funded projects. It lists a variety of oil companies, including Shell, Entergy, TransCanada, Enable Midstream Partners, and the lobbying group Am [LSU’s Center for Energy Studies, accessed [09/26/23](#)]

In addition to a smattering of big oil corporations, the list includes government agencies like the Department of the Interior and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. [LSU's Center for Energy Studies, accessed [09/26/23](#)]

While Working For LSU, Greg Upton Worked For Acadian Consulting, A For-Profit Consulting Firm Serving Clients In The Oil Industry.

Greg Upton Makes No Mention Of "Acadian Consulting" On His 22-Page C.V., But Appears On Archived Versions Of The Firm's Website.

Acadian Consulting Is A Private Research Firm Whose Clients Include A Long List Of Oil Companies, Chemical Companies, and Utilities. [Acadian Consulting, accessed [09/26/23](#)]

- **Archived Versions Of Acadian Consulting's Website Show That Greg Upton Worked There As A Research Associate.** [Acadian Consulting, archived [08/29/18](#)]
- **Greg Upton Makes No Mention Of Acadian Consulting On His C.V.** The firm's name doesn't appear anywhere in Upton's CV, even though he lists employers since 2014. [Gregory B. Upton, Jr C.V., updated [09/08/23](#)]

Greg Upton Has Worked Alongside His Dual-Role Boss At Both Acadian And LSU As Recently As 2022.

Greg Upton Lists 15 Papers He Worked On Alongside David Dismukes On His C.V. As Recently As 2022. [Gregory B. Upton, Jr C.V., updated [09/08/23](#)]

- **David Dsumkes Is The Managing Partner Of Acadian Consulting And The Previous Executive Director Of LSU's Center For Energy Studies.** [Acadian Consulting, [06/20/23](#)]

Greg Upton: "A Long History Of Taking Oil Money For Studies That Advance The Industry's Interests," Including A Study From Energy Transfer Partners Touting The Benefits Of Oil Pipelines.

In 20'8, Greg Upton Worked On A Study Funded By Energy Transfer Partners To Promote An Oil Pipeline In Louisiana. "The oil and gas industry also donates heavily to Louisiana State University, and dominates the school's Center for Energy Studies, which has consistently produced research that promotes industrial interests. An LSU report about the benefits of the Bayou Bridge Pipeline that has been used to promote the project to regulators and to the general public was paid for by Energy Transfer Partners and prepared by an economist with a long history of taking oil money for studies that advance the industry's interests." [Public Accountability Initiative, [01/11/18](#)]

At The Time, Greg Upton Worked For Both LSU And A Private Firm Under The Same Boss, David Dismukes. "The LSU report was prepared by Center for Energy Studies executive director David Dismukes. In addition to running the Center for Energy

Studies, Dismukes also runs a private economic consulting business, Acadian Consulting, that does work for the oil and gas industry, though this work is often difficult to distinguish from his work at the public university. Gregory Upton Jr, an assistant professor at the CES and the co-author of the Bayou Bridge report, is also a research associate at Acadian.” [Public Accountability Initiative, [01/11/18](#)]

Greg Upton’s Report Was Influential In Securing Necessary Approvals And Building Public Support” For The Bayou Bridge Oil Pipeline. “In February 2017, the LSU Center for Energy Studies published a report commissioned by Energy Transfer Partners touting the pipeline as a potential source of major economic benefits for the state of Louisiana. The report, titled ‘Potential economic impacts of the Bayou Bridge pipeline,’ was influential in securing necessary approvals and building public support for the pipeline. It was cited in numerous media reports and was submitted as testimony to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.” [Public Accountability Initiative, [01/11/18](#)]

In 2019, Greg Upton Took Over \$40,000 From A Utility For A Shoddy Report Opposed To Net Metering.

In 2019, Gregory Upton’s Colleague At Both LSU And Acadian Released A Utility-Funded Study Opposed To Renewable Energy And Net Metering. “Two reports from utility- and fossil fuel-backed researchers aim to cast doubt on the viability of customer-owned solar in the lead-up to a scheduled September 11 Public Service Commission (PSC) vote[1] on the future of net metering in Louisiana. The PSC commissioned David Dismukes, a critic[2] of renewable energy, to write[3] a review of distributed generation policies in January of this year. PSC staff used Dismukes’ report to recommend deep cuts to compensation for solar owners, even though previous such cuts have caused solar installations to plummet.” [Energy and Policy Institute, [09/06/19](#)]

- **Greg Upton’s Report Was Funded With “Over \$40,000” From An Electric Utility.** “Gregory Upton Jr.’s February 2019 report, ‘The Future of Solar in Louisiana,’ received ‘over \$40,000’ in support from SWEPCO, a utility regulated by the PSC. The report makes a series of questionable assumptions about solar costs.” [Energy and Policy Institute, [09/06/19](#)]

Greg Upton’s Report Used Inaccurate Numbers And Implausible Scenarios To Argue Against Net Metering.

Greg Upton’s Report Relied On Made Up Numbers And Imagined, Unrealistic Scenarios. “Upton’s study used an outdated cost for residential solar of \$3.57/watt, 15% higher than the current \$3.05/watt average, according to the solar marketplace EnergySage. The study also repeatedly referred to scenarios in which capacity values for solar may be poor ‘if every customer’ installed solar, an exceedingly unlikely, if not impossible, scenario for decades.” [Energy and Policy Institute, [09/06/19](#)]

Greg Upton’s Report Blended His Roles As A Public University Researcher And As A For-Profit Consultant. “Upton, under the auspices of the LSU Energy Center, included

graphs that appear identical in style to Dismukes' January 2019 PSC report, written from his Acadian position." [Energy and Policy Institute, [09/06/19](#)]

Chett Chiasson (Port Fourchon)

Chett Chiasson Represents A Port Authority That Services The Offshore Oil Industry.

Chett Chiasson Is Executive Director Of The Greater Lafourche Port Commission, A Terminal That Services The Offshore Oil Industry In The Gulf Of Mexico.

Chiasson Says The Port Handles No Oil Directly, But 250 Companies Use The Port To Service The Offshore Oil Rigs That Provide “Nearly 20% Of The Nation’s Oil Supply.”

Chett Chiasson Says That His Port’s Tenants Provide Services To More Than 90 Percent Of All Deepwater Rigs In The Gulf Of The Nation’s Oil Supply. “Port Fourchon is located on the Gulf of Mexico near the mouth of Bayou Lafourche and is the only Louisiana port directly on the Gulf of Mexico. Although 675 million barrels of domestically produced and imported crude oil per year are transported via pipelines through or near the Port, Port Fourchon does not itself handle any bulk oil and gas per se. Rather, we are an intermodal offshore services and supply port. More than 250 companies utilize Port Fourchon in servicing offshore rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, carrying equipment, supplies and personnel to offshore locations. In terms of service, Port Fourchon’s tenants provide services to more than 90 percent of all deepwater rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, and roughly 45% of all shallow water rigs in the Gulf. 80% of all Gulf oil now comes from deepwater Gulf of Mexico operations. In total, Port Fourchon plays a key role in providing nearly 20% of the nation’s oil supply – or one in every five barrels of oil in the country.” [Chet Chiasson Senate EPW Testimony, [06/24/21](#)]

Port Fourchon Is A Political Subdivision Of The State Of Louisiana. “The Greater Lafourche Port Commission, a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana, facilitates the economic growth of the communities in which it operates by maximizing the flow of trade and commerce. We do this to grow our economy and preserve our environment and heritage.” [Port Fourchon, accessed [09/26/23](#)]

By One Measure, 95 Percent Of Port Fourchon’s Business Is Energy Related. “It’s a multiuse coastal port that functions primarily as a land base for multiple offshore energy support service companies. The Gulf of Mexico provides the U.S. with about 18% of its domestic oil supply. More than 95% of tonnage moved within Port Fourchon’s facilities is energy related.”

Port Fourchon’s Tenants Include Major Oil Corporations Like BP, Shell, And Chevron. [Port Fourchon Directory Search, accessed [09/26/2](#)]