

August 25, 2016

Mr. Tim Wigley
Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association
500 N.E. 4th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Dear Mr. Wigley,

I recently received your letter dated August 23, 2017 regarding your interpretation of a “direct conflict of interest”. I understand your frustration at not being able to adequately represent the entirety of our industry as so required in our association’s by-laws. I suggest that you read the OIPA’s bylaws which will hopefully broaden your understanding of the significance of the OIPA’s expressed purpose to represent the Independent Petroleum Industry in Oklahoma.

Through my 30+ years of service to the OIPA’s board, I have seen a wide variety of participants in our industry. We argued and discussed but always attempted and usually achieved a position where differing interests were accommodated. There were few times when differences were decided outside of the board room but they were soon put in the rear view mirror and we always came together – stronger, more understanding, and better informed. That was the strength of our association.

We did not treat people with rudeness. We did not discard years of integrity by not supporting their re-appointment to our board. We recognized that differences of opinion give opportunity to build a relationship through another means, thereby strengthening the association’s influence. We did not send threatening letters demanding resignation.

My position is that the OIPA is responsible for representing the entirety of our independent oil and natural gas producers as best as it can. I find myself and many other independents of a very significant part of our industry that are being excluded. With patience and commitment, we could have easily been accommodated.

As stated in the OIPA bylaws, I am given the privilege of being a Lifetime Director by virtue of my being a Past President. As also written in the bylaws, there is a method of removing a member which requires a vote by the Board of Directors. Until that happens, I will continue to pay my membership fee and attempt to attend most board meetings.

If the OIPA board were to take a very public position of a vote to solely represent a single portion of our independent oil and natural gas industry, then that would certainly make its intentions well known. The membership could then make its own decisions about their own self interests.

Best Regards,

Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr.

