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Volume 1, Edition 8

3/14/15 - 3/20/15

Dear Friends,

As we near the half-way point of session, the pace continues to quicken around the Capitol. The House and Senate are bustling with activity and we're considering the many pieces of legislation that have been filed. I hope you'll read some of the highlights from the past week, find time to [watch](#) some of the debate in committee and on the floor, and most importantly, [contact](#) me regarding the issues that matter most to you!

TEXANS AGAINST HIGH-SPEED RAIL MEETING

This past Tuesday, [Texans Against High-Speed Rail](#) held a meeting at the Ennis High School to discuss the effects the proposed rail will have in Ellis County. I will continue to do everything in my power to fight for Ellis County citizen's best interests and I know that by standing against the high speed rail, I am doing just that. This is why I have filed two different bills (HB [3915](#), [3918](#)) that would protect Texas private property and tax payer dollars. Texans Against High-Speed Rail has been very active in fighting this proposed project and I thought I would share on how we can help this organization:

- 1) Visit www.TexansAgainstHSR.com.
- 2) Send opposition letters from their "Speak Out-Opposition Letters" page.
- 3) Join their email newsletter to get updated news and info about upcoming events.
- 4) Join the fight by making a financial donation if you haven't already. It will take everyone's contribution in this specific area to keep the fight strong and equal.



Kyle Workman, President of Texans Against High-Speed Rail, speaking to the audience at Ennis High School

HOUSE BILL 910 & 937

On Tuesday Homeland Security & Public Safety committee heard [HB 910](#) and [HB 937](#) and public testimonies regarding each bill. [HB 910](#) would allow concealed handgun license owners to openly carry a handgun in public. Texas is one of 6 states that prohibit the unconcealed display of handguns: Along with NY, Illinois, South Carolina, Florida, and California. [HB 937](#) would allow concealed handgun license students to carry a concealed handgun on college campuses. Both of these bills aim to promote individual rights and protect our 2nd amendment rights.

HOUSE BILL 11 PASSES

The House of Representatives passed [House Bill 11](#), a bill aimed at creating a comprehensive long term solution to Texas's border security problems. Specifically, [HB 11](#) authorizes an additional 300 DPS troopers for border security operations, criminalizes the act of inducing a person to enter the country illegally, strengthens state smuggling laws to effectively target the organized criminal element infiltrating our border, along with other reforms. The legislation also protects local control by creating the "Texas Transnational Crime Intelligence Center", which would be staffed by local police and sheriffs to serve as a real-time, around-the-clock intelligence hub for state and local law enforcement agencies. [Click here](#) to watch the press conference about HB 11.

CAPITOL SALUTE TO TEXAS MUSIC

On Wednesday, I was honored to attend the Capitol Salute to Texas Music celebrating Texas Music and Artists during 2015 South by Southwest (SXSW) Music Conference & Festival at the Governor's Mansion.



Pancake (1st Dog of Texas) and I at the Governor's Mansion

STAY CONNECTED

You can reach our Austin office at (512) 463-0516 or by e-mail at district10.wray@house.state.tx.us. Be sure to stop in and visit us when you're in Austin or the District and lookout for contact information for the District office soon!

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve you and please contact me if I can be of service!

God Bless you and God Bless Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Wray".

Representative John Wray

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