

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



April 12, 2013

Friends,

Happy Friday! This has been a busy week in Austin. The Ways & Means Committee has been holding hearings twice a week because of the large number of tax bills that have been filed this session. The Committee is carefully discussing the best ways we can provide tax relief and keep policies in place that will continue to encourage economic growth. I expect several of these bills to make it to the House floor in the coming weeks.

Texas Connectivity Hub

Last week I filed HCR 97 which would designate the Metropolitan Planning Area of the North Central Texas Council of Governments as the *Texas Connectivity Hub*. This designation would not only include all of HD 112, but also the 12-county area around the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The purpose of this designation is to encourage economic development in our region. It emphasizes the concentration of mass transportation and telecommunication industries in North Texas. Additionally, it strengthens regional cooperation as well as provides an opportunity for our individual cities and counties to market themselves. The mass transportation industry includes important rail lines such as DART, TRE, and the A-train. It also includes area airports such as DFW and Love Field where American and Southwest Airlines are headquartered respectively. Our region is home to more than 60 major corporations in the telecommunications industry including Fortune 500 companies AT&T, Texas Instruments, and MetroPCS Communications. This resolution will improve regional cohesion and marketing efforts to attract more economic activity.

Cotton Belt Corridor

At the beginning of this session, Governor Perry, Lt. Governor Dewhurst, and Speaker Straus all expressed the need to address the growing demands on our state's infrastructure as one of their top priorities. An improved transportation system contributes to our economy and attracts new businesses to Texas. This week, Senator John Carona's SB 1333, that would create the Cotton Belt Rail Improvement District, was heard in committee. The "Cotton Belt Corridor" runs from

Plano to Southwest Fort Worth, further connecting our region. This bill would help develop and fund passenger rail in the area. My own Garland Mayor Pro Tem John Willis was at the Capitol to testify on the benefits this would bring to our district and is pictured with me below.



Public Education

On Wednesday, Richardson ISD School Board Member Kim Caston gave a presentation concerning public education and the current model we are using to Representative Stefani Carter and me. She discussed how our state should better prepare our students for the workforce or future higher education success. Because I am a proud parent of a successful RISD graduate, I am a strong supporter of public education and believe the strength of our system is of the utmost importance to the success of our state. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the House with the help of Richardson and Garland ISDs to find ways we can improve public education. I look forward to hearing from members of our community on the issue.



Pictured with Richardson High School students involved in the law school magnet program that visited the Capitol on Monday.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. Please continue to communicate your views on issues that are important to you.

Sincerely,

Angie Chen Buttan

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail Angie.Button@house.state.tx.us.