

# ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas  
House of Representatives



*April 26, 2013*

Friends,

I hope everyone is doing well. We are heading into the final stretch of the 83rd legislative session. I am working hard to make sure we are passing legislation that will benefit our great state and keeping harmful bills from becoming law.

## **Texas Infrastructure**

The recent droughts have highlighted the importance of long-range planning to meet the state's water needs. The *Water For Texas 2012 State Water Plan* projects that over the next 50 years, both population and water demand in the state will increase, while existing water supply will decrease. The State Water Plan lays out specific strategies to meet these increasing demands. The estimated cost of implementing the State Water Plan is more than \$50 billion.

On Monday, the House will take up HB 11. If passed, the bill will make a one-time appropriation of \$2 billion from the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) to the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas to finance water-related projects. With proper management, this initial capitalization will allow the fund to be leveraged to finance over \$25 billion in water management strategies over the next 50 years with the remaining cost being covered by local entities.

This Senate has already approved the use of a portion of the Rainy Day Fund to implement the water plan. However, they increased the amount that will be moved from the Rainy Day Fund to \$6 billion and also expanded what they planned to finance with the money to include non-water related items and potentially recurring costs. I believe firmly and have heard loudly from constituents that the Rainy Day Fund should be used sparingly and should not be used to fund recurring expenses.

The health and economic vitality of Texas is dependent on our state's infrastructure, but we must also be responsible and practice restraint. Based on the Comptroller's estimate, we should expect

close to \$12 billion by the end of this biennium. It has been reported that about \$7 billion is what we need to maintain in the Rainy Day Fund to provide an adequate cushion in the event of a natural disaster and to maintain our current bond rating. Because of this, I am comfortable using \$2 billion to implement our state's much needed water plan, but I do not think the Senate's \$6 billion dollar expenditure is a responsible move. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important matter.

### **Protecting Your Tax Dollars**

On Wednesday, I passed HB 2684 to make sure that citizens of Rowlett and Sachse would not be taxed on their own tax dollars. Smaller cities like Sachse and Rowlett along with over 160 cities have joined to create The Texas Coalition for Affordable Power (TCAP). TCAP is an alliance of cities that have joined together to purchase electricity for their own governmental use. Using the strength of its numbers, TCAP negotiates terms and conditions for electric service that may be unavailable to a single city acting alone. This promotes healthier city budgets and benefits taxpayers. HB 2684 clarifies that entities of this kind that are comprised entirely of tax exempt entities do not have to pay franchise taxes. This bill ensures that your city will not be forced to pay taxes to the state with your tax dollars. It unanimously passed the House and is headed over to the Senate.



**A group of young homeschooled students from across the District along with their parents came down to Austin for a tour of the Capitol and the newly re-opened Governor's Mansion.**

### **Marketing our Region**

On Wednesday, I laid out both HCR 96 and HCR 97 in the Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committee. HCR 97 designates the 12 county area around the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex as the Texas Connectivity Hub. The Texas Connectivity Hub emphasizes the concentration of the telecommunications and mass transportation industries. The resolution enhances regional cohesion and provides a marketing tool for the entire region. HCR 96 designates Garland as the Cowboy Hat Capital of Texas. Garland is home to the manufacturer of Resistol and Stetson as well as other small hat manufacturers. Garland is the largest manufacturer of cowboy hats in Texas. The CEO

of the Garland Chamber of Commerce Paul Mayer and President of Hatco Stan Redding both came down to the Capitol to offer their support and testimony. Both resolutions were received favorably and will soon be heard on the floor.



**Here I am with Paul Mayer to my right and Stan Redding, the President of Hatco Inc. to my left. Hatco produces Stetson and Resistol hats and employs close to 400 people. They are both wearing hats made right here in House District 112.**

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 Button*

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