

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



January 30, 2015

Friends,

This week has been a full one with many groups dropping by the office. I was happy to see and meet with a number of my friends from the district that made the trip down to their state capitol. Steve Harris and Tallie Young, both from Richardson, came by with the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA) and I was happy to attend a luncheon with them to discuss their issues. I was also glad to sit down with Nathan Weber of Rowlett's Economic Development department to discuss how we can help the city to become more attractive to businesses. I saw Garland City Councilman Stephen Stanley and discussed transportation issues. Rowlett City Councilwoman Debby Bobbitt and Rowlett Parks and Recreation Board Member Rhetta Bowers stopped by to briefly discuss ending the sporting goods sales tax diversion with my team. Lastly, Garland City Attorney Brad Neighbor and Brian England sat down with me to discuss items of importance to the City of Garland.

I am excited to be back in the district this weekend where I was able to attend the Garland Chamber's 83rd Annual Banquet. I enjoyed celebrating the 120th Anniversary of the Garland Chamber and visiting with President of Richland College, Dr. Kay Eggleston. We discussed workforce development and ways to encourage cooperation between the Texas Workforce Commission and community colleges. I am looking forward to attending the annual Reagan Day Dinner in Dallas this evening.



I was happy to see my Richardson friends Steve Harris, Tallie Young, and Lisa McAllister with NAIFA when they came to visit their state capitol.



Happy to have both Brian England and Brad Neighbor with the Garland City Attorney's office come visit me in our capitol office.

Economic Development

Yesterday our new Governor announced his plan to begin reforming economic development incentive programs in our state. Governor Abbott would like to dissolve the Emerging Technology Fund and use a portion of the unexpended balance to recruit top science and engineering researchers as faculty at state universities. In the Governor's proposal, he recommends moving the remainder of the money not being directed toward universities to the Texas Enterprise Fund. The Texas Enterprise Fund is considered a "deal-closing fund" with a focus on job creation. I am excited about the idea of the "Governor's University Research Initiative." In the report released by the House Select Committee on Economic Development Incentives, which I had the honor of chairing, we called for a restructuring of the state's prominent economic incentive programs and for the creation of a strong oversight committee to ensure the programs are transparent and efficient. I look forward to working with Governor Abbott to ensure Texas remains a leader in economic development and that each tax dollar spent brings a return on our investment.

Ethics Reform

Texas does not currently have a "cooling-off" period before a former legislator can come back to work at the legislature as a lobbyist. This year I filed HB 213 to address this issue by enacting a two-year waiting period, prohibiting former legislators from taking a spin through the revolving door and immediately becoming lobbyists. I filed this bill to make sure your elected representative is working for you until the last day they are in office and not a potential client or special interest group.

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.