Greetings from back home in House District 134! Over the past several months, I have been sharing regular updates on our biennial legislative session from the Capitol in Austin. After finalizing some major legislation in conference between the House and Senate, we adjourned for the last time on May 27th.

The session was productive and the Texas Legislature successfully delivered on our major priorities. Bills related to property tax relief (Senate Bill 2), school finance reform (House Bill 3), and disaster recovery (House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 500) all passed and await action by the Governor. Here, I will offer some highlights of this legislation and look forward to sharing more details and these and other important issues in the weeks to come.

Senate Bill 2 and House Bill 3 work together to make a historic investment in public education while also relieving the property tax burden by shifting a greater share of school funding to the state. More than $5 billion was directly allocated to immediately reduce local property taxes. In addition, the percentage by which property tax revenues can rise each year has been lowered from 8% to 3.5%, and a Property Tax Advisory Board was created to provide ongoing recommendations to improve the system. Local school district recapture payments to the state, better known as “Robinhood” payments, have also been reduced by $3.6 billion, which is a huge win for Houston ISD. More than $6 billion was allocated to education funding, including higher pay for teachers and school staff. Together, this legislation makes much-needed improvements to the school funding system in a fiscally responsible way that also provides property tax relief.

I am pleased to report that the Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund and Flood Infrastructure Fund received a $1.68 billion appropriation. Of this, $838 million will be used to offset the drawing down of federal funds to local entities and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers long-term infrastructure projects. The other $840 million will fund the Texas Water Development Board’s State Flood Plan. Funding these projects is instrumental to make critical infrastructure improvements and make our community a safer place to live.

As always, I want to thank you for following the progress of your Texas Legislature. If you have any questions for me, please contact me through our Capitol office at (512) 463-0389 or at Sarah.Davis@House.Texas.gov.