



Your District 45 Weekly Update

Hey y'all!

Keeping my constituents in the loop is of the utmost importance to me. Scroll through this week's newsletter to stay informed!

For a better Texas,

Erin Zwiener

State Representative -- District 45

Hays & Blanco Counties

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Click [here](#) to sign up for our office newsletter!

The Main Story

Representative Erin Zwiener Brings Aggregate Industry Bills

State Representative Erin Zwiener filed four bills to address concerns from House District 45 residents regarding the proliferating aggregate industry. Aggregate operators include concrete batch plants, gravel pits, and stone crushers. With a rapidly growing district, some areas have seen a growing number of aggregate operators who are unconcerned with being good neighbors to the community around them.

“I’m working with my Hill Country neighbors, Representatives Terry Wilson and Andy Murr, to provide comprehensive oversight for aggregate operators,” said Rep. Zwiener. “This would include looking at the impacts on air quality, groundwater use, transportation infrastructure, public safety noise pollution, and the combined impact of multiple facilities in a community.”

The bills are narrow in scope, and each address a specific concern. They are designed to have minimal impact on the industry. Rep. Zwiener’s office is concerned with the noise of operation, damage to local roads because of increased overweight truck traffic, and the impact on our air and water.

“We have a lot of operators in our district that have been rooted in our community for decades ,” said Rep. Zwiener. “But as the district has grown, companies have popped up that have no long term plans of staying and don’t have the community’s interests at heart.”

Rep. Zwiener has introduced four bills:

HB 2939 would require hours of operation for Aggregate Production Operations (APOs) facilities to be between 7 A.M. and 9 P.M. if they are within one half mile of a single-family residence or hospital.

HB 3033 would allow county commissioners courts in rapidly urbanizing counties to regulate construction of new APOs facilities by creating set back requirements of one mile from hospitals, places of worship, schools, and residences.

HB 3034 requires APO facilities to have established load limits on roads utilized by such operators, as set by the county commissioners court and Texas Department of Transportation, before an air quality permit is issued.

HB 3035 would require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to ensure that the amount of an administrative penalty is at least equal to the value of any economic benefit gained by the alleged violator through the violation.

Rep. Zwiener also supports **HB 509**, introduced by Rep. Terry Wilson, which would create a Railroad Commission umbrella permit for all gravel mining operations in addition to the currently required TCEQ air quality permits.

Get Involved

Thank you to everyone who signed up to join our Legislative Action Team! In case

you missed the call to action, please read the message below!

As March approaches and more opportunities for constituent involvement in the policy-making process pop up, I want to make sure that your voice is being heard. **What are you passionate about? What issues affect your day-to-day life? What do you want to see happen this session?**

Our **Legislative Action Team** is a place for you to share your answers to those questions with me. **Sign up to join the Action Team [here!](#)**

Recent Photos



Clockwise from top left: Advocates from Reform Immigration for Texas Alliance, local Hays County coming to the capitol to support my Scenic Highways bill, Transgender Education Network of Texas lobby day at the Capitol, and a few of Superintendents from District 45 to talk about school finance reform.

In the Works

In the first Texas legislative session since the onset of the Me Too movement, Representative Erin Zwiener is working to eliminate sexual misconduct. She has filed two bills focused on workplace sexual harassment and two bills to help improve our sexual assault data. The bills present the opportunity to create a shift in workplace norms and challenge the state to better track sexual assault and resulting prosecution.

“An worker whose employer has 16 employees can report sexual harassment to the Texas Workforce Commission, but a worker whose employer has 14 employees cannot,” said Rep. Zwiener. “It doesn’t make sense, and it’s time to change that. We know sexual harassment can occur in any workplace, and it is our duty to make sure protections extend to each and every Texas worker.”

Sexual Misconduct Bills

HB 2278 would increase the window in which a sexual harassment claim could be made from 180 days to a full two years.

HB 2279 would allow the Texas Workforce Commission to accept sexual harassment claims from employees of companies of all sizes. (Senator Zaffirini is carrying the companion, SB 46.)

HB 2672 would create a study to be conducted by the Texas Department of Public Safety to investigate the disparity between sexual assault offenses and actual prosecution.

HB 2678 requires the Texas Department of Public Safety to compile and maintain statistics on the number of victims of sexual assault to a law enforcement agency after receiving a forensic medical examination.

“We know that there are holes in our legal system for sexual assault cases,” said Rep. Zwiener. “Many reports to law enforcement aren’t adequately investigated, and many cases do not make it to prosecution. By compiling data by jurisdiction, we can determine where additional training for law enforcement officers and prosecutors is needed.”

HB 2279 is scheduled for hearing in House Committee on International Relations & Economic Development **Monday, March 18th at 10am.**



Upcoming Events

Texas Night Sky Festival

March 30th & 31st | 6:30pm-8:30pm

Dripping Springs Ranch Park

Click [here](#) to learn more!

Recent Articles

[Rep. Zwiener Files Over 50 Bills In 86th Legislative Session For Texas Groundwater, Conservation And More](#)

[Permian Highway Pipeline outcry builds as residents seek answers](#)

[Zwiener Hits Ground Running](#)



HB 2279

House Bill 2279 would allow the Texas Workforce Commission to accept sexual harassment claims from employees of companies of all sizes.

Sen. Judith Zaffirini has filed SB 46 the identical bill in the Texas Senate

Filed!