



State Representative GARY VANDEAVER

July 2024 E-Newsletter



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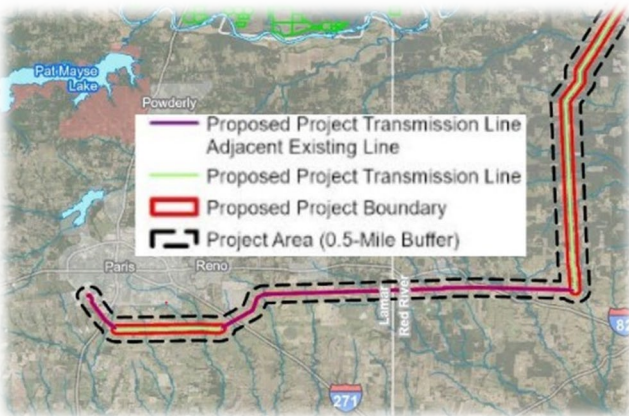
88th Legislature Report - House District 1 Bowie | Cass | Lamar | Morris | Red River

District Update

Pushmataha County Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project. My office was recently informed about a hydroelectric project that could affect parts of Southeast Oklahoma and Northeast Texas, particularly parts of Lamar and Red River counties. Aquarian Capital and the Southeast Oklahoma Power Corporation have filed a “Notice of Intent” to receive licensing approval from the *Federal Energy Regulatory Commission* (FERC). There are a few key things I want you to keep in mind if you hear or read social media posts about this project:

- **First**, the application process is projected to take over two years, with final licensing (if approved) not granted before March 2027 according to documents filed with FERC.
- **Second**, FERC will host two community meetings at the Love Civic Center (Paris) on **Wednesday August 7, 2024**, at 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

I encourage all concerned citizens to attend these meetings to find out more information and make your voice heard about this project. From the documents reviewed by my staff, the water reservoirs for the pumpstation hydroelectric generation project will be in Oklahoma, but the power generated through this process will use new proposed transmission lines planned for Red River and Lamar counties to get to its final destination. It appears that if this project is approved by FERC and is scheduled to be built, eminent domain may be used to secure the necessary land for the construction of the transmission lines.



Please refer to my Facebook page for periodic updates about this project. ***We will be monitoring this very closely*** and keep you informed if this project moves forward.

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TexAmericas again ranked in Top 3. *Business Facilities*, a leader in the industrial site selection field, has again ranked TexAmericas Center as the No. 3 Industrial Park in the United States of America in their 20th Rankings Report for 2024. TexAmericas' executive director, Mr. Scott Norton, said "we are honored to keep the same #3 ranking we received last year." *Business Facilities* identified key characteristics of TexAmericas that kept it at the top of their rankings for available industrial site selections including:



- Introduction of the Qualified Sites Program with several locations already shovel ready;
- Extensive third-party logistic services; and
- Availability of a prepared and ready workforce partnerships with such education institutions as Texas A&M – Texarkana to provide a skilled workforce.

Campbell Soup changing its Paris operations. The Campbell Soup Corporation informed Paris employees on July 24, that the site will transition over the next two years into the company's "flagship sauce factory" focusing on Prego Italian Sauces and Pace Salsa. Campbell soup operations will transfer to other sites within the Campbell network. Though I am disappointed with this change in operations at the Paris plant, I am glad that the company will still have a plant and be a part of the Paris community and economy. Over the next two years, about 300 of the company's 680 roles at the plant will be impacted. A Campbell Soup Company representative said that it will work closely with employees during this transition.



State Update

Sales tax holiday scheduled August 9-11. The start of school is just around the corner and what better time to take advantage of the state's upcoming sales tax holiday weekend in early August. Texans can purchase most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks (sold for less than \$100) during the annual Tax-Free weekend. Qualifying items can be purchased [tax free](#) from a Texas store or from an online or catalog seller doing business in Texas. Here is a link for more information, including a list of qualifying and non-qualifying items, from the state comptroller's office: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/publications/98-490/>.



Discussions about possible name change for A&M Commerce. Leadership at the Texas A&M University System have discussed a possible name change for a very important and historic higher education institution in East Texas. The discussion has proposed adding "Dallas" to A&M Commerce's name to reflect its importance to the entire Northeast Texas region.

Earlier this month, I sent a letter opposing this change to the A&M University System's chancellor, the Honorable John Sharp, reminding him that the school has been an

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important part of higher education in East Texas for over 130 years, long before the school became known as “A&M – Commerce.” I appreciate the Chancellor’s willingness to continue discussions about this issue so that the concerns of alumni and advocates for A&M – Commerce are considered before any name change is finalized. Thousands of alums of this historic university, whether it was named “East Texas State University” or “A&M – Commerce” have signed a petition also opposing a name change to include Dallas as part of its official name.

Contact Information

Social Media. Please follow me on my Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts for more updates!

My office is here to help. I thank each of you for letting me serve you as your state representative. Please contact either the District or the Capitol office if there is anything we can do to help you. Follow me on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for more updates!

District Office	Capitol Office	State Representative
<p>Bowie County Courthouse 710 James Bowie Drive New Boston, Texas 75570 (903) 628 - 0361</p>	<p>Office: E1.304 P.O. Box 2910 Austin, Texas 78768-2910 (512) 463 - 0692</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Gary VanDeaver</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Email Gary</u></p>

Useful State Government Websites

Governor of Texas www.gov.texas.gov	Texas 2-1-1 (United Way) www.211.org
Texas Senate www.senate.texas.gov	Texas Education Agency www.tea.texas.gov
Texas House of Representatives www.house.texas.gov	Texas Department of Motor Vehicles www.txdmv.gov
State of Texas www.texas.gov	Texas Department of Transportation www.txdot.gov
Texas Legislature Online www.capitol.texas.gov	Texas Department of Public Safety www.dps.texas.gov
Office of the Attorney General . . . www.texasattorneygeneral.gov	Texas Department of Insurance www.tdi.texas.gov
Health & Human Services Commission . . www.hhs.texas.gov	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department www.tpwd.texas.gov
Medicaid, Food Stamps, & TANF . . www.yourtexasbenefits.com	Texas Workforce Commission www.twc.texas.gov
Child/Elder Abuse Reporting www.txabusehotline.org	Texas Veterans Commission www.tvc.texas.gov

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