

Capitol Update

SENATOR BRANDON CREIGHTON



84th Legislative Session

This week, the state legislature has made significant strides in strengthening property rights, limiting state spending, and continuing our state's prosperity. Below are a few highlights.

Brandon Creighton

BREAKING NEWS: Creighton Calls for Abbott to Oppose Conversion of Al Price Facility

My capitol office has received an outpour from constituents in Senate District 4 and every member of the Jefferson County Commissioner's Court publicly opposing the transfer of sexual offenders to Beaumont. I stand firmly with my district against the conversion of the Al Price facility into a halfway house for some of the worst sexual offenders in our state and request Governor Abbott stand with us. This is not a classic 'not in my backyard' scenario. Job recruitment in Southeast Texas is key in keeping our state the 11th largest economy in the world. Maintaining a healthy recruitment effort cannot be achieved if the Al Price facility is converted.



Under the Dome

Protecting Property Rights (SB 474): Yesterday, legislation strengthening Texas' commitment to private property rights passed to engrossment in the Senate. Senate Bill 474 knocks down one of the largest cost barriers standing between landowners and their right to receive adequate compensation by requiring condemning entities to reimburse court costs and attorney's fees incurred whenever the entity undervalues property by twenty percent or more lower than the appraisal amount. Eminent domain reform is vitally important in protecting our private property rights and assuring our infrastructure needs are met in a manner that is fair to landowners. Landowners should never have to settle for an offer below their property's fair value.

Limiting State Spending (SB 9): This week, the Texas Senate passed a legislation that limits state spending by tying it to the rate of population growth plus inflation, instead of personal income. Reigning in our state's spending has always been one of my top priorities. Texas taxpayers expect us to tighten our belts and be good stewards of their hard earned money. As an author of similar legislation in the past and a co-author of SB 9, I'm excited to see this meaningful bill make its way through the Senate and believe it's the best policy to curb unnecessary spending in our state.

Creighton's Legislation Station

Improving the Sabine-Neches Waterway (SB 1137): On Thursday, my Sabine-Neches District legislation cleared the Senate. Over 100 million tons of cargo are carried on the Sabine-Neches Waterway each year. Deepening the waterway from 40 to 48 feet will help us meet our growing transportation needs and continue to attract new economic development for the country. It is vital that we move forward with this expansion. This legislation provides the clarity needed to ensure the waterway continues to be an economic driver for our county, state, and nation.



Currently, industry related sectors supported by the Sabine-Neches Waterway generate over \$32 billion in gross product, \$18 billion in personal income, \$3.4 billion in federal taxes, and more than 288,000 permanent jobs annually.

In the News

- Ducking Child Support by Becoming a "Contractor", *Texas Tribune*
- Beaumont officials do not want more sex offenders, *Houston Chronicle*
- Texas promotes great outdoors with constitutional amendment, *KXII-TV CBS 12 Texoma*

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One of the simplest ways to keep up with our office and all that occurs at the Texas State Capitol during legislative session is following us on social media. We will be posting updates regularly, so please take a moment to 'LIKE' us on Facebook, 'FOLLOW' us on Twitter, or subscribe to our YouTube page!