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**For Immediate Release**  
May 27, 2019

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**Bettencourt Among 2 Members of the Senate To Be Named the 2019 Citizens' Choice Award Winner**  
*Senator Bettencourt's Statement on being named the 2019 Citizens' Choice Award in the 86th Session*

**Austin** - Thank you to Empower Texans for naming me along with Senator Hancock (R- North Richland Hills), the 2019 Citizens' Choice Award winners in the Texas Senate during the 86th legislative session. What an honor it has been to listen to and represent ALL taxpayers in Texas.

It has been a long fight that I started 16 years ago as Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector with Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, and 300 other taxpayers when we came to the Texas Capitol on two buses in 2003 as constituents to ask for property relief. I campaigned on property tax reform and I have always kept taxpayers at the forefront of my mind in every single vote brought before the Texas Senate this session as well as past sessions. As the author of SB 2, I am proud of the hard work by so many not only during session but also in the interim but especially the thousands of taxpayers that attended the committee hearings year after year!

As chair of the Senate Property Tax Committee, myself and the other committee members heard many bills dealing with all kinds of tax reform. Thanks to Senator Angela Paxton (R-McKinney), Senator Brandon Creighton (R- Conroe), Senator Kelly Hancock (R- North Richland Hills), and Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) for serving with me on the committee. SB2, the Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act of 2019 is the first major property tax reform in nearly four decades, and that says it all! This is the real beginning of property tax reform, transparency and relief and I look forward to working with my Senate Colleagues and the Texas House Members next session to continue this effort for the taxpayers of Texas.

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