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## THE SENATE OF TEXAS



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### LOIS W. KOLKHORST

STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 18

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### Senator Lois Kolkhorst Tours Port Freeport

AUSTIN - Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) met with Senator Larry Taylor (R-Freindswood), Fort Bend County Commissioner Andy Meyers and Commissioners from Port Freeport on Monday, March 21 in Freeport to discuss the economic impact that Port Freeport has on Senate District 18 and the State of Texas.

Port Freeport, located in Brazoria County was authorized by the Texas Legislature in 1927. The Port sponsors Foreign-Trade Zone #149 covering all of Brazoria and Fort Bend Counties and provides service to key customers including Tenaris Bay City, Dow Chemical, Phillips 66, American Rice, Hoegh Autoliners, Mammoet, and Chiquita. Future investments in the port may include the widening and deepening of the port to accept post panamax ships as well as the possible construction of 36A, a short line rail through Rosenberg to accommodate the ever expanding port.

"The impact of Texas ports does not stop at the water's edge. In fact, Texas ports provide a major impact to our local and statewide economies," said Kolkhorst. "Port Freeport is a leading economic engine for the Texas Gulf Coast and is poised to continue to grow with industry engaged in billions of dollars of current and future infrastructure investments."

Senator Kolkhorst's district represents the ports of Bay City, Calhoun, Palacios, Victoria and West Calhoun; the most of any Texas lawmaker. Senator Kolkhorst was recently appointed to the newly established Senate Committee on Texas Ports by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick. The committee exists to specifically study the economic benefit of the Panama Canal expansion to Texas ports. In addition to this appointment, Senator Kolkhorst serves on the Senate Committees of Agriculture & Water, Education, Finance, Health & Human Services, Transportation and a Joint Committee to study a coastal barrier system.

"As a lawmaker who represents nearly a third of the Texas coastline, I am excited to serve on this committee and I think a great deal of our future economic growth lies in capitalizing on the economic opportunities presented by the Panama Canal expansion," said Kolkhorst.

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