

The Senate of The State of Texas



BRIAN BIRDWELL

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**Senator Birdwell Successfully includes rider limiting State Resources being used on High-Speed Rail Project**

AUSTIN - Today, Senator Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) successfully included in the Committee Substitute to House Bill 1 a rider limiting state expenditures for high-speed rail. This rider continues to ensure that state resources are not used on a project that is unregulated and unapproved by any state or federal entity.

"This project has many issues, and one could easily see the potential outcome that could befall Texas by looking at the catastrophic failure occurring in the California high-speed rail project," said Senator Birdwell. "This rider seeks to solely protect state resources, including state right-of-ways, should Texas Central Rail (TCR) begin construction before receiving a definitive answer on their condemnation authority."

TxDOT would be restricted from expending state resources to coordinate access to state highway right-of-ways for construction purposes until a high-speed rail entity can prove their ability to utilize eminent domain. This rider is necessary, and more so now than in previous sessions, due to events that have transpired here and in other parts of the country.

CSHB 1, with this rider included, now goes to the full Senate for consideration.

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*Brian Birdwell is a native Texan, decorated military veteran, lifelong conservative Republican, survivor of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, and a proud husband, father and grandfather. He currently represents the counties of Bosque, Ellis, Falls, Hill, Hood, Johnson, McLennan, Navarro, Somervell and Tarrant [partial] in Senate District 22.*