



Capitol Comments

2015 Inauguration Edition

January 23, 2015

Inauguration Day

Tuesday, January 20, 2015 was an historic day in Texas as Governor Greg Abbott and Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick took their respective oaths of office. Governor Abbott is now the 48th Governor of Texas and Lieutenant Governor Patrick is the state's 42nd Lieutenant Governor. Lisa and I had the great pleasure of attending the inauguration ceremony on the north steps of the Texas Capitol.

Lt. Governor Patrick was sworn in first. In his inauguration speech, Lt. Governor Patrick said securing Texas' border with Mexico would be among his highest priorities -- pledging to fund border security at the highest level in state history.

Governor Abbott was sworn in shortly after Lt. Governor Patrick finished speaking. Our new Governor named border security among his highest priorities as well. Governor Abbott's priorities also included transportation funding, speeding up the completion of the state's much needed water projects, ensuring Texas remains number one in the nation in job creation, and continuing his legacy of pushing back against Washington, D.C.

I especially appreciated Governor Abbott's statement that "any government that tries to rob us of our freedom will get a uniquely Texas response: *Come and take it!*" The future of Texas is bright and full of hope. I look forward to working with Governor Abbott and Lt. Governor Patrick to bring this future to bear during the 84th Legislative Session.

Side Notes

This week I met with individuals and interest groups concerning a wide variety of issues and legislative proposals. A couple of the issues that were brought to my attention are summarized below. These issues are not grabbing as many headlines as issues like border security and transportation funding, so I have not received a great deal of input from constituents about them. Therefore, I would greatly appreciate any thoughts or feedback you may have on these issues.

Tesla Motors - Under current Texas law, Tesla is unable to sell its vehicles directly to the public because it has no franchised dealer relationships in Texas. Legislation was proposed last session to allow United States-based manufacturers of all-electronic or all-battery powered vehicles (Tesla) to sell directly to Texas consumers. However, none of these bills saw final passage.

Interested parties are now pursuing legislation that is more limited in scope, allowing manufacturers that only produce battery electric vehicles (Tesla) a maximum of 12 sales licenses in the State of Texas. What do you think?

Walmart Liquor Sales - Current Texas law prevents publicly traded companies from selling spirits at the retail level. Walmart is now publicly opposing this prohibition, calling it "inconsistent with free market competition."

If legislation is filed to allow publicly traded companies (like Walmart) to sell liquor at the retail level, how would you advise the Texas Legislature to vote?

Please feel free to respond to this email to provide your comments. Your input will help me cast a well-informed vote if any bills pertaining to these matters are considered during the 84th Legislative Session.

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As always, please stay in touch with me and feel free to drop by my District Office, follow me on Facebook or find me on the [House Website](#) to hear about upcoming events.

Thank you, it is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as your State Representative.

Best regards,



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