

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas House of Representatives



February 17, 2017

Friends,

The House is hard at work in Austin working on issues important to Texans. Texas is one of only seven states that allow local property taxes to be assessed on retail inventories. The other states (Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and West Virginia) are not states with whom Texas normally competes for new business and economic development opportunities. Additionally inventory tax is paid by large and small businesses equally and hurts investment in Texas. Inventory taxes violate a number of principles of sound tax policy. The tax is not transparent and few know that it exists. It violates neutrality as businesses with larger quantities of inventory, such as retailers and manufacturers, bear a higher cost of the tax compared to other firms.

This session, I filed several bills to eliminate the inventory tax. One of the bills filed is HB 1182. This bill exempts food products for sale at retail from being taxed for inventory. Currently, when you go to the grocery store, food products (such as flour, sugar, bread, milk, eggs, fruits,

vegetables, and similar groceries) are not assessed sales tax. However, the retailer is assessed an inventory tax on those items. HB 1182 seeks to eliminate this tax reducing this burden that is ultimately passed on to the consumer. If you would like to follow this bill or any legislation, please visit <http://www.legis.state.tx.us>.

UTD McDermott Scholars



Pictured here with the UTD McDermott Scholars and Dr. Richard Benson, President of UTD.

On February 13th and 14th, the freshmen and sophomore McDermott Scholars from the University of Texas at Dallas visited the Capitol. The McDermott Scholars Program, endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene McDermott, provides a full tuition scholarship to about 20 UT Dallas students each year. McDermott Scholars, in addition to spending at least two terms abroad or in research labs, are given exposure to culture and politics of Texas. Every legislative session, the McDermott Scholars visit the Capitol to speak with their representatives about issues that matter to them. As both a proud UT Dallas alumna and a representative of their campus, it was great to hear their perspective and questions about my work in the Texas House of Representatives.



Speaking to leaders from my hometown of Garland who came down for Garland's legislative day at the Capitol.



Rowlett's Jim Grabenhorst and Councilwoman Tammy Dana-Bashian presented me with picture for my Capitol office to remind visitors from around the state of Rowlett.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. Please continue to communicate your views on issues that are important to you.

Sincerely,

Angie Chen Button

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail Angie.Button@house.texas.gov