



News release

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Bay Area Houston legislators participate in BAHEP panel discussion

BAY AREA HOUSTON, TEXAS – The Political Protocol Committee of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership hosted the 82nd Legislative Update on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, at South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center. The update was presented in the form of a panel discussion, which included Texas State Reps. John Davis, Larry Taylor, Wayne Smith, and Ken Legler. State Sen. Mike Jackson and Rep. Craig Eiland had been scheduled to participate in the panel; however, unforeseen obligations prevented their attendance. Dr. Brenda Hellyer, chancellor, San Jacinto College District, served as moderator, while Galveston County Commissioner Ken Clark fielded questions from the audience. Bob Payne, BAHEP director of Contracts, was the timekeeper.

The event, attended by over 150 of the region's business leaders and elected officials, was sponsored by Roy Green, general manager of South Shore Harbour. An Elected Officials Reception, featuring a wide assortment of hors d'oeuvre, preceded the panel discussion. Following the reception, BAHEP President Bob Mitchell presented opening remarks and introduced the elected officials in attendance. Commissioner Clark then led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Texas Pledge, led by Harris County Justice of the Peace, Precinct 8, Holly Williamson.

Reps. Davis, Taylor, Smith and Legler were each invited to summarize their accomplishments during the 82nd Legislative Session and subsequent special session. Then the legislators were presented questions from both the Political Protocol Committee and the audience and were given an opportunity to respond.

Funding for education, healthcare, and Texas windstorm insurance, in addition to redistricting, were major issues that were addressed during the session, and the representatives commented on the complexity and difficulty they faced when dealing with them. In closing, Reps. Davis,

Taylor, Smith and Legler were all in agreement that the 83rd Legislative Session to be held in two years may present even greater challenges due to the potential for another revenue shortfall.

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The Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership is a member-driven organization that provides the leadership to stimulate regional economic development and employment in southeast Texas. Its members include more than 260 investor companies, business professionals, local governments, and educational institutions encompassing 13 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, and the Port of Houston Authority. Visit www.bayareahouston.com.

Space Alliance Technology Outreach Program is administered by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership. It is a State of Texas funded initiative designed to transfer the knowledge and technology of the U.S. Space Program to small businesses to solve technical challenges they are unable to solve themselves. Visit www.spacetechnologies.com/bahep.