



**News release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Our lives are richer because of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

**BAY AREA HOUSTON, TEXAS** – Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, the senior senator from the State of Texas, announced on January 13 that she will not be a candidate for re-election in 2012. When she returns to Texas to live full-time, she will have served this state and this country for nearly two decades.

It's difficult to remember a time when Senator Hutchison wasn't in Washington looking out for us here at home. She will be leaving behind a legacy not only in the legislation that has made such a positive impact on Texans' lives but a personal one, as well. Everyone who meets with the senator walks away knowing how much she truly cares about Texas and about every single one of her constituents.

On January 21, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership will honor Senator Hutchison with its prestigious Quasar Award, which is given annually to the person who has demonstrated strong leadership and excellence in promoting economic development for the region during the previous year. The senator's work on behalf of NASA has been well documented. NASA, this nation's leadership, the future of the country's human spaceflight program, and the future missions of NASA Johnson Space Center would look very different if it were not for the tenacity of Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.

The senator has been instrumental, as well, in her work with the Texas Medical Center and universities across the state toward helping them achieve the significant Tier 1 status.

Universities with Tier 1 status receive higher amounts of research funding, consequently attracting a larger number of students pursuing careers in research and development fields. This stimulates economic growth even further as corporations are often willing to relocate to attract these highly skilled graduates.

Her vision for a strong military presence at Ellington should also be realized before she leaves office. Staring at the real possibility of shutting down not that many years ago, Ellington is now in the midst of an \$80 million building boom. Where once there had been just 500 military personnel assigned to Ellington, there are now 4,000, and it will be home to more than 6,000 not far down the road.

I am, of course, disappointed that Senator Hutchison will not seek reelection when her term is over. She has worked tirelessly for the citizens of Texas and for America. As a parent myself, I understand the importance of spending quality time with your family, especially as your children are in their formative years. Those are years that cannot be recaptured, and she is making the right choice for her family.

Senator Hutchison, we extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your unparalleled leadership over the past 17 years. Our lives are all richer because of you.

Bob Mitchell  
President  
Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership

**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](http://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](http://www.spacetechnologies.com/bahep).