



TOMMY WILLIAMS
Texas State Senator
District 4

Committees:
Administration, Chair
Finance
Education
International Relations & Trade

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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SENATOR WILLIAMS TOURS SABINE NECHES NAVIGATION DISTRICT

Beaumont - Senator Tommy Williams and Senator Joan Huffman met recently with officials at the Sabine Neches Navigation District to discuss the extensive operations of the Sabine Neches Waterway (SNWW) and its importance to the economic vitality of both Texas and the nation.

"It was exciting to see the growth and improvements made after the devastation of Hurricane Ike," Senator Williams said. "This channel serves as the largest military out-port in the country, and is of great strategic importance to our nation's energy infrastructure."

The tour was led by Sabine Neches Navigation District Managers, Randall Reese and Clayton Henderson, who explained that closing the port for just one day results in a \$50 million loss in commerce to regional industries. The Senators were briefed on the history, administration, and environmental and economic impact of the SNWW before taking a tour of the area via helicopter.

The district was constructed in 1909 as a saltwater barrier for rice farmers in the area, and has evolved into the nation's fourth largest waterway in total trade tonnage. It supplies twenty percent of the U.S. gasoline east of the Rockies and is predicted to hold forty-five percent of the nation's LNG import regasification capacity by next year.

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