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THE SENATE OF TEXAS



LOIS W. KOLKHORST

STATE SENATOR

DISTRICT 18

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KOLKHORST TO LAY OUT SB 147 BEFORE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

Kolkhorst will offer a committee substitute aimed at protecting national security while keeping the American dream alive.

(AUSTIN, TX) - Thursday, March 2, Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) will offer a committee substitute for Senate Bill SB 147. Senator Kolkhorst has received support from Texans across the state regarding the importance of food security, energy security and national security.

“I have been amazed by the bi-partisan support this bill has received from across our state,” said Kolkhorst. “Despite the narrative portrayed by some in the media, the feedback has been extremely positive. But, I have listened to concerns and because of that, the committee substitute will make it crystal clear that dual citizens and legal permanent residents are able to purchase property. In fact, anyone fleeing these authoritarian regimes will be able to purchase a home.”

The committee substitute will include these clarifications/additions:

- Makes clear that the prohibitions do not apply to United States citizens and lawful permanent residents, including dual citizens.
- Prohibitions for real estate holdings will not include a residence that is homesteaded. This addresses concerns of those who have fled the authoritarian regimes to live the American dream and seek a home in Texas.
- Clarifies the definition of real estate as: land; an improvement; a mine or quarry; a mineral in place; or standing timber. This makes it clear that the bill ensures food, energy and national security are protected.
- Specifies that majority control of an entity means 50% or more voting control.

- Clarifies the enforcement mechanism. The Attorney General is given authority to investigate potential violations and then bring a divestment proceeding before a court of law. Once a judge finds the entity in violation, the court orders the real estate into receivership with existing receivership procedures under Chapter 64, Civil Practices and Civil Remedies being applied.

SB 147 addresses a national security issue and will preserve our cherished private property rights and constitutional freedoms. The proposed legislation builds upon SB 2116 which passed the Texas Legislature unanimously in 2021. That bill protected critical infrastructure against contracts or doing business with Russia, North Korea, China, and Iran or its citizens because of national security issues. Those four countries are also named in the Director of National Intelligence's Annual Threat Assessment. Mirroring that legislation and the Annual Threat Assessment, SB 147 also names the same four countries and prohibits them from future purchases of Texas lands.

"I am honored to have SB 147 heard by the Senate Committee on State Affairs on Texas Independence Day. The goal of this bill is to legislate common sense safeguards against Russian, North Korean, Chinese, and Iranian authoritarian regimes. It will not apply to those fleeing the tyranny of those governments who seek freedom in Texas," said Kolkhorst. "The committee substitute makes important clarifications, so the law targets agents of these adversarial regimes while not harming innocent Texans in pursuit of the American dream."

Texans can view the hearing online Thursday, March 2 by visiting <https://senate.texas.gov/>.

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