

**Texas House Committee on Environmental Regulation Chairman  
Addresses the Chamber Environment and Energy Council**

The chairman of the Texas House Committee on Environmental Regulation, Byron Cook, spoke to the Dallas Regional Chamber Environment and Energy Council at noon on Friday, April 23, 2010 in the Chamber's Conference Center.

First elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2002, Chairman Cook represents Texas House District 8. He was reappointed in 2009, by Texas House Speaker Joe Straus to serve on the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission. Additionally, he was appointed by the Speaker as Vice Chair of the Local and Consent Calendars committee and to serve as a member of the prominent committees on State Affairs and Calendars.

Chairman Cook shared with Council members the many challenges the House Committee on Environmental Regulation will tackle in the upcoming legislative session, as well as the multi-billion dollar budget shortfall the 82nd Texas Legislature must address.

Chairman Cook remarked on other relevant environment and energy issues including:

- The potential changes, which may take place under the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator, Dr. Al Armendariz. Armendariz is a Southern Methodist University (SMU) associate professor at SMU's Lyle School of Engineering.
- Building new, state of the art power plants, which emit less than the older, less efficient plants will allow Texas to meet the increased demand for energy, while protecting air quality.
- Facts quantify that air emissions and pollution concentrations in Texas are at their lowest level in twenty years. Additionally, ozone concentrations in the D/FW area are at their lowest level in three decades.
- It is important for industry to engage in new and effective messaging efforts in a positive, proactive manner.
- North Texans should make every effort to consistently educate and inform elected national and state leaders on industry and business community positions about environmental and energy issues.

For additional information on the Chamber's Energy Council contact Jay Barksdale at [jbarksdale@dallaschamber.org](mailto:jbarksdale@dallaschamber.org) or Fred Guerra at [fguerra@dallaschamber.org](mailto:fguerra@dallaschamber.org) or call 214.746.6600.