

**January 2017**  
**Report from STPRA's Austin Team:**

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The 85<sup>th</sup> legislative session is set to begin January 10<sup>th</sup>. As usual, a large number of bills have been pre-filed, but none appear to be too alarming to our concerns, so far. Agencies have made their budget requests to meet reduction goals based on the anticipated short-fall in revenue due to the continued slow-down in the oil industry. The DPS has requested a billion dollars over the biennium for border security. No new money for highway construction is anticipated beyond that which has been dedicated and is now in the funding process, nor is much new spending anticipated beyond addressing school finance and social services. The Ag Council will commence its weekly meetings during the session on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Farm Bureau, TSCRA, and TWA have continued their efforts to advance eminent domain reform, with STPRA as a partner. Joey has been intimately involved in helping prepare a comprehensive legislative package that includes landowner reimbursement of expenses, bona fide offers, fair tax valuations, bond requirements, accurate appraisals, possession and use agreements, and royalty payment clarifications and enhancements. He is serving as an important resource as legislation is being drafted and will share a more refined version once it is complete. Further information on these efforts can be found at: <http://www.texansforpropertyrights.com/>

**Mark your calendars for February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Plans are being made for a day and a half at the Capitol. Stay tuned for further details!!**