

The Senate of The State of Texas

CHAIRMAN:
NATURAL RESOURCES
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



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SENATOR TROY FRASER DISTRICT 24

June 2, 2015

Dear Senate District 24, Friends, and Colleagues,

Today, it is with a heavy heart, an overwhelming sense of pride, and not an ounce of regret, that I am announcing I will not seek another term for Texas Senate. The end of session has provided me a meaningful opportunity to reflect not only upon the past 140 days, but also the past 27 years.

When I ran for office in 1988, I was frustrated with the overreach of government and wanted to make a difference. As a businessman, I saw firsthand that the workers' compensation insurance market was crippling our state's economy. So, I did what so many Texans before me have done: I rolled up my sleeves and went to work. Knocking on countless doors, I committed to friends, neighbors, and strangers that I would fight hard for them. Humbled by the confidence the voters placed in me, I arrived at the Capitol as a freshman ready to fight for what I knew was right.

Little did I know I would be here nearly three decades later, still striving to make a difference. In my years at the Capitol, I am proud to have stood by the principles which helped me win my first election.

As a conservative, I have made it my priority to ensure government lives within its means, never spending more than it takes in. I have championed measures to ensure Texas was wide open for business, authoring legislation to foster competition in Texas to benefit consumers. I have worked tirelessly to ensure that our children and grandchildren will have a reliable source of water by passing a funding mechanism for the statewide water plan. I have fought tooth and nail to secure funding to bring crucial higher education and medical care facilities to my district. But my proudest accomplishment is passing legislation requiring photo identification to vote, ensuring the integrity of the ballot box and protecting our most sacred privilege.

There comes a time when leaders must take a look back at the trail they have blazed and reflect on all they have done. There also comes a time when leaders must allow others the opportunity to leave their mark. Today marks that time for me.

CAPITOL OFFICE:
P.O. Box 12068
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
(512) 463-0124
FAX: (512) 475-3732

ABILENE OFFICE:
500 CHESTNUT STREET, SUITE 810
ABILENE, TEXAS 79602
(325) 676-7404
FAX: (325) 676-8060

BELTON OFFICE:
1920 N. MAIN ST., SUITE 101
BELTON, TEXAS 76513
(254) 939-3562
FAX: (254) 939-7611

MARBLE FALLS OFFICE:
101 HIGHWAY 281 N., SUITE 203
MARBLE FALLS, TEXAS 78654
(830) 693-9900
FAX: (830) 693-9603

The Texas Senate is one of the most deliberative legislative bodies in the world, priding itself on collegiality and cooperation, and I am proud to have been a part of such an august body. I am humbled and honored by the legacy I have helped forge. Like the many senators who have come and gone before me, I know that the spirit of Texans will ensure our state's continued success. Texas is blessed by abundant natural resources, not the least of which is capable men and women who aspire to make a difference by serving in public office.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge those who have stood by me all these years. Growing up of modest means in a small West Texas town, I was fortunate to have parents who always worked two to three jobs to give their children the opportunities that they didn't have. But never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would one day walk the same halls as some of Texas' larger than life personalities. I have my parents to thank for instilling in me the values that led to a life of public service: hard work, dedication, and courage. To my wife and family, thank you for sticking by my side through all the years of sacrifice and for being my biggest supporters. To my staff, friends, and constituents, I owe you a heartfelt thanks for your unwavering dedication and friendship.

As my term comes to a close, I will fondly remember the people who I have had the opportunity to represent over the years. As a senator, I have been blessed with the chance to serve so many Texans who have given to us so selflessly. From our men and women in uniform, to our teachers, and countless others, I will cherish that feeling until my final day in office.

For 27 years, I have walked the halls of our magnificent Capitol building. I have marveled at its dome, gazed upon the Goddess of Liberty, and dedicated myself to my constituents. To quote the late Bob Bullock, "only death will end my love affair with Texas."

It's been a great ride. May God bless you and God bless Texas!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Troy", with a stylized flourish extending from the bottom.

Senator Troy Fraser