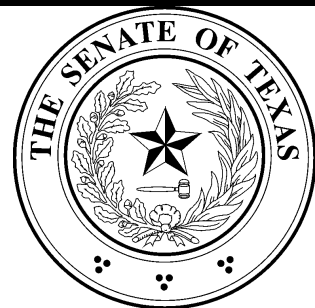


SENATOR
JOHN WHITMIRE
DISTRICT 15
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 27, 2013

CONTACT: Lara Wendler
(512) 463-0115

**Senator John Whitmire files legislation to ban the
commercialization of the Capitol Complex**

Austin, Texas -- Senator John Whitmire (D-Houston) announced today that he has filed Senate Bill 894 to stop the commercialization of the Capitol Complex.

"I am proud that 27 of my Senate colleagues have joined with me to protect our sacred State Capitol and surrounding Capitol land," stated Senator Whitmire, Dean of the Texas Senate. "I cannot in good conscience allow private interests to come in and commercialize our Capitol Complex."

Senate Bill 894 will prohibit the use of public-private partnerships or so-called P3s within the Capitol Complex. The legislation is a direct result of the over-zealous actions taken by the Texas Facilities Commission and private interests to develop commercial projects surrounding the State Capitol. Included in the development proposals is a 40-plus story condominium towering over the Bob Bullock State History Museum.

"The State Capitol and Capitol Complex belong to all Texans and should be protected for generations to come," commented Whitmire. "I will not allow our grand State Capitol and the home of our State government to become surrounded by towering buildings, condominiums, and commercial enterprise."

Senate Bill 894 was referred to the Senate Economic Development Committee and will be heard by the Subcommittee on Public-Private Partnerships along with other bills aimed at reining in the use of P3s across the State of Texas.

###

P.O. Box 12068, Austin, Texas 78711 (512) 463-0115
803 Yale Street, Houston, Texas 77007 (713) 864-8701