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Senator Kolkhorst Files Priority Hurricane Recovery Legislation

AUSTIN - In a state capitol press conference, Senator Lois W. Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) announced that she has filed Senate Bill 6, priority Hurricane Harvey Recovery legislation while flanked by Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, fellow Senators, as well as local constituents Fulton Mayor Jimmy Kendrick and Sheriff Pinky Gonzales of Refugio County.

"Texas suffered one of the largest natural disasters in our nation's history with Hurricane Harvey. Much of Senate District 18 sustained a direct hit," said Kolkhorst. "Nearly all of the counties that I represent in the Texas Senate were declared federal disasters areas where homes, businesses, and entire families were devastated."

Specifically, Senate Bill 6 will be a roadmap to prepare our state for future hurricanes and natural disasters. The legislation instructs the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) to use state resources to create guides for local officials on disaster response and recovery that will reduce confusion and delay after an emergency. The bill also contains several provisions related to the disposal and management of debris following a disaster. The legislation goes on to direct TDEM to develop a proposal for training and credentialing emergency management directors and coordinating with colleges and universities to develop credentialing and training programs across the state.

"I have witnessed firsthand the dedication and devotion of our local officials, first responders and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to care for our damaged communities," said Kolkhorst. "The survivors and victims of Harvey will never be forgotten, and the best way to pay tribute to them is to come together as Texans helping Texans, and create an action plan for the future." ###