

Lufkin / Nacogdoches Legislative Agenda

December 11, 2006

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To: Members of the Texas Legislature

From: The Nacogdoches/Lufkin Key 8 Group, Stephen F. Austin State University Alumni Association, Government Affairs and Transportation Committees of Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce and the Angelina County / Lufkin Chamber of Commerce.

The following items are priorities of our communities for the next Legislative Session.

Economic Development

- Development of incentives and funding for alternative energy production through bio-mass, wind, hydro-power and clean coal plants in East Texas.

Education

- Support the Texas Higher Education Commissioners' recommendations for funding of community colleges.
- Support funding of Stephen F. Austin State University, based not only on enrollment numbers, but also on the quality of educational experience provided to students.

Community

- Fund core programs in healthcare accessibility and healthcare education *
- Allow local governments to count in-kind services as matching contributions on state grants. Eliminate unfunded mandates to local and county governments. *
- Support for enhancement and continuation of Lufkin State School.
- Support establishment of mental health facility for region.

Water rights and resources

- Protect local water rights by allowing local water districts, not state agencies, to control their water resources.*

Transportation and infrastructure

- Support continued work on an east-west highway corridor through East Texas, such as improving Hwy 21 and Hwy 103.
- Support construction of TTC 69.