



**State Senator
Kirk Watson
District 14**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, CONTACT:

Steve Scheibal, Office of Senator Kirk Watson
Monday, February 02, 2009
(512) 463-0114

Senator Watson files bill to protect Texas business, climate

*Senate Bill 608 would create Texas Center for Sustainable Business,
create action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions*

Senator Kirk Watson on Monday filed a bill designed to help Texas businesses and stimulate the economy while also reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases – the primary cause of climate change.

The bill, Senate Bill 608, creates the Texas Center for Sustainable Business, which would develop an action plan to assess strategies and aid businesses as they seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This center, led by an advisory board of industry and environmental leaders, would be a vital resource for Texas businesses as they transition to a climate that will likely set regulatory and commercial limits on these emissions. The center also would work with state and federal regulators to account for greenhouse gas emissions in Texas and recommend strategies and policies for reducing those emissions sporadically and significantly over the next 40 years.

Texas leads the nation in greenhouse gas emissions. Were Texas its own country, it would rank eighth in the world in these emissions.

"This bill will create valuable tools and resources for Texas businesses as they compete in a world that's moving quickly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and generate clean, renewable power," Senator Watson said. "The Texas Center for Sustainable Business will fortify our place in the 21st Century energy economy."

S.B. 608 leads a package of bills that Senator Watson has filed to help the state find solutions that protect both Texas businesses and the environment. The list includes:

- S.B. 184, which would identify strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while saving money over the long-term.
- S.B. 541, which creates incentives for utilities to develop solar power and rewards companies that build solar panels, wind turbines, and other 21st Century energy materials in Texas.
- S.B. 542, which sets aside economic development money for research and development of 21st Century power generation.

"Texas is rightly proud of its legacy as a 20th Century energy leader. These 21st Century technologies, coupled with responsible action on greenhouse gas emissions, will determine whether we continue to lead in the future," Senator Watson said. "We must embrace the future, not fight it."